

Tragedy in the Sudan

BY JULIA ARNOUS, III & DANIELLA COLB, II
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When asked about the situation in the Sudan during the first presidential debate, John Kerry stated bluntly that “we could never allow another Rwanda.” But are the events in the Sudan tantamount to genocide, as the travesties in Rwanda ten years ago clearly were? According to the U.S. Congress and Secretary of State Colin Powell, the answer is yes. Journalists are struggling to enter Sudan as black Africans, fearing for their lives, flee west into Chad. According to the Associated Press, mortality rates in Darfur, the westernmost territory of the Sudan, are “three to ten times higher than normally found in sub-Saharan Africa.” Darfur is plagued by an “ethnic cleansing” disconcertingly similar to those labeled genocide in Rwanda and Bosnia.

The region of Darfur is chiefly inhabited by farmers and pastoral nomads, and home to a variety of ethnic groups. Tensions between native African groups such as the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit, and Arab peoples, known as the Baggara, have been mounting over a long period of time. In the pre-colonial era, the Fur kingdom repeatedly clashed with the Baggara. Prior to the 20th century, Darfur was a center of the slave trade, and slave traders competed with Arabs in raiding the Bahr el Ghazal region of what is now the Sudan in order to capture slaves for coastal provinces.

The Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), “rebel” groups both comprised of tribal black Africans, protest government policies which they claim keep them in continuous poverty. In 2003,



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land conflicts escalated between these groups and the Janjaweed, militias of Arab nomads, as a result of overpopulation and a decreasing water supply.

Atrocities committed by the government-supported Janjaweed have far surpassed those of the rebel groups. The Janjaweed have plundered and burnt entire villages, destroyed crops, and raped and murdered the innocent, though African tribes are also guilty of such crimes.

Bokur Hamis, a 21-year-old who was one of many victims of sex crimes committed against Darfur’s African inhabitants, described her experience when she was torn from her home in the village of Jartage. Men fully equipped with modern weaponry attacked and killed the essentially unarmed village dwellers. In the midst of this bloody massacre, the women of Jartage ran to a nearby lake and sought refuge underwater, but they were soon discovered. “Each of us was raped by between three and six men,” recounted Bokur. “One woman refused to have sex with them, so they split her head into pieces with an ax in front of us.” Many of the rescued have described similar events in recollecting their own experiences.

Rape victims are sold to Arab soldiers who often force them into domestic or sexual slavery. Frequently they are no older than 13 or 14. While some have successfully escaped, many women remain in the custody of Arab soldiers. Rape is only one of the many forms of degradation that has become commonplace in Darfur. Men and women are dying in horrifyingly large numbers. An estimated 50,000 people have died so far during the ongoing crisis, though the estimates are inconsistent. Roger Winter, the assistant administrator of USAID, an American aid

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BLS Students Targeted in Hate Campaign

BY CARL GOODRICH, I & ASHLYN GARRY, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & NEWS EDITOR

Free promotional CDs have become successful sources of publicity among young people, and are a great source for discovering groundbreaking new bands. On Wednesday, October 13, two young men dressed in black approached several players on Boston Latin School’s soccer team (mainly those wearing headphones),

asking if they wanted free CDs. When the boys accepted, they were given sampler rock and heavy metal CDs. The unfamiliar band names (including Youngland, Bound for Glory, and H8machine) may have prompted the people to visit the label’s website.

People were stunned to discover that behind the facade of a Minnesota-based record label, there exists a company called Panzerfaust—translated as “Armored Fist”—whose mission is to

encourage white supremacist ideals. Later, when Ms. Freeman showed her classes the site (www.panzerfaust.com), some were surprised that these sentiments have reached Boston. The site’s link to Project Schoolyard USA guides readers to pages containing the song lyrics as well as an assortment of racist propaganda. Included are links to “Racist Jokes,” “Nigger Owner’s Manual,” and “Hate Crimes.” The Hate Crimes page lists nearly 50 interracial crimes committed against whites that

may or may not be racially motivated.

Project Schoolyard USA is Panzerfaust’s latest and most aggressive form of recruitment in the United States. It began in Germany in the spring of 2004, when (according to the website) a few German “patriots” wished to distribute 100,000 CDs of “nationalist rock and roll” to teenagers, hoping that the music would have “an incredible effect on White kids who are sick of the failed social experi-

See *HATE CAMPAIGN*, page 3 »

Did you know?

Global News Tidbits

» There are 320 lightbulbs on the ceiling of the auditorium of the Boston Latin School. (*Argo*)

» All sophomores were required to take the PSAT on Saturday, October 16, 2004. This is a change from

previous years, in which sophomores were only recommended to take it. According to Assistant Head Master Mr. Malcolm Flynn, the policy change has occurred because the city is paying for the PSAT for all sophomores and juniors. (*Argo*)

» Sri Lanka’s handball team, whose performances in tournaments have not exactly been excellent, left for France so abruptly that officials thought that they had gotten lost in the nearby woods while jogging. (*BBC*)

» The town of Livermore, Califor-

nia recently spent \$40,000 on a mosaic mural outside the city’s main library. However, city council members have now voted to spend \$6,000 to correct the numerous spelling errors (including Albert Einstein) made by artist Maria Alquilar. (*Reuters*)

» According to many Boston Latin School students, while the idea of new IDs was good, the execution was not. Leah Skahen (I), pictured here on her new ID, can attest to the fact that too many people crammed into the gym in too little time made

for a project that simply went wrong. Questions remain about the purpose of the IDs. There has been buzz about security purposes. “No one at BLS has ever asked to see my ID before,” says Skahen. (*Argo*)





It's that time of year once again. The scent of fresh coffee is diffusing about the hot computer room, and the stress level is rising beyond belief. Sleep-deprived teenagers are bickering about other people's work and arguing about what to eat for dinner. Production week is what turns a group of Boston Latin School students into a scene from *Night of the Living Dead*. This is the *Argo*.

Why do we do this to ourselves eight times a year? Are we crazy? Or are we all just a bunch of insomniacs? No: we withstand this torture to put out the best possible paper. So many people put a lot of hard work and effort into this paper, yet so few actually take the time to read it. The *Argo* should be the voice of the students, but that requires effort from the student body. Read the paper! Give us your ideas! Submit your articles! If you have an idea for the *Argo*, talk to me or another staff member. This newspaper should not be for a select group but rather a paper for the entire student body. We have over 2,400 students at Boston Latin and we want to see every one with an *Argo* in hand.

I must say that many years ago, when I was a young fivesie starting off as

a mere general staff member, I did not realize that the goal of the Editor-in-Chief was more than producing the paper. A newspaper is not worth the effort unless the students read it and enjoy it. This year, my co-editor Isaac and I promise to provide the Boston Latin School community with seven issues of the *Argo* that are worth reading. We want to hear students talking about the articles. We want to get students involved in reporting and writing for the *Argo*. As a newspaper that is published seven times in a school year, we will try to focus on local and school issues rather than just world news. We will also try our best to represent diverse political opinions. Most of all, this year, the *Argo* will be worth reading!

Enjoy the first issue!

—Burt Carter, Editor-in-Chief

System Suffers Sixie Overload

BY ELIZABETH FINLAYSON, II
STAFF WRITER

On September 9, 2004 Boston Latin School opened its doors, welcoming old and new students alike to another school year. A general feeling of confusion amongst the new students is usually palpable as they navigate the hallways for the first time. This year in particular, however, brought even more disorder to a small group of seventh graders whose schedules were unexpectedly shifted around. This caused mix-ups very early in the year that only served to intensify the typical baffled states of sixies, adding strain to their already difficult adjustment period.

According to Assistant Head Master Mr. Philip Haberstroh, an opportunity to take the Latin School entrance examination is offered each year to all sixth and eighth grade students interested in attending Boston Latin School, including those students who live outside of the city of Boston. However, come springtime, only those students who live within the limits of the city of Boston are notified of their acceptance to the school and are added to the official attendance list for the next academic year. Each year, there are about sixty students who

live outside of the city when acceptance notices are sent out, about forty of whom are entering into the ninth grade and about twenty entering seventh grade. Students who meet all requirements of the Latin School except those concerning residency have until July 31 to move into the city. Once they move, they can be added to the official attendance list. Last-minute difficulties occur because the administration does not assemble the schedules for students who will be attending the next year until June 1. The schedules of any additional students must be built around pre-existing class sections.

Student schedules are laid out based on the assumption that some students will simply not show up. This year, however, the group of incoming students was much larger than anticipated. The result of this miscalculation was that some classes were substantially more crowded than others, making schedule changes a necessity. In addition to the unexpected numbers of students, the ratio of students in seventh and ninth grade who moved into the city over the course of the summer was reversed. The number of seventh graders on the first day was greater than that of new ninth graders. Due to the cluster system, these

unexpected students posed a particular problem for the administration. The cluster system divides all seventh-grade students into three groups, that attend their five classes, which are taught by the cluster homeroom teachers, together. In previous years, when the new ninth grade students were in the majority, the administration could simply move around one or two classes for the individual students. Because of the cluster system, when one student's class is changed, all of their classes change. According to Mrs. Monica Griboaud, the math teacher for Cluster C, 16 students did not show up to school last year. This resulted in the Cluster C teachers simply dissolving one homeroom and dividing the students who had shown up into four homerooms, one less than originally planned. This year, instead of once again leaving one homeroom empty, a new homeroom was created for those students who had moved over the course of the summer along with two students picked at random.

While situations like this one are irritating to those students, parents, and faculty members involved, the schedules of those unfortunate few students have been resolved, leaving the new students to settle into life at the Latin School with one fewer worry.

A Message from the Head Master

In the letter I mailed to your home in August and at the assemblies in September, I required that all of you learn the BLS Mission Statement. I am interested in your understanding of the different sections of the mission and I am asking you a question in this issue. Would you please share with me in writing your definition of a "contemporary

classical education?"

Please submit your thoughts (no more than one page) to Mrs. Malone in the Main Office. Be sure to include your name and year of graduation.

Special thanks to the *Argo* editors.

Cornelia Kelley
Head Master

Mission Statement of the Boston Latin School

"Boston Latin School seeks to ground its students in a contemporary classical education as preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life."



Boston Latin School
Argo

ARGO
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
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BOSTON, MA 02115

MISSION STATEMENT
Petere Veritatem

The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place
New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Competition

1996 New England
Scholastic Press
Association Superior
Achievement Award

1996 Third Place
Suffolk University
High School
Journalism
Competition

1997 New England
Scholastic Press
Association Superior
Achievement Award

1998 New England
Scholastic Press
Association Superior
Achievement Award

2004 New England
Scholastic Press
Association Highest
Achievement Award

Boston Latin School *Argo*
2004-2005

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group, describes Darfur as a “humanitarian disaster of the first magnitude.” His organization estimates that if the devastation continues, between 350,000 and one million people could die in Darfur by the end of this year.

Recognizing that outside help is desperately needed, the United States is beginning to play a more active role in bringing this nightmare to an end.

» From *HATE CAMPAIGN*, page 1

ment of so-called multiculturalism.” Now, as “an expression of the increasing level of international solidarity and cooperation between White nationalists,” the Panzerfaust record label decided to also give out free CDs to reach America’s youth. In just two weeks, 20,000 of the planned 100,000 copies of their Sampler Volume 1 CD were distributed to impressionable white teenagers throughout the country, specifically to those ages 13 through 19. The

On September 9, Colin Powell not only recognized the situation in Darfur as a “genocide,” but also publicly denounced the Sudanese government and the Janjaweed, though Sudanese foreign affairs minister Najib Abdul Wahab adamantly denies responsibility for the crisis. On the same day, the United States put forward a U.N. draft resolution, threatening the Sudan with oil sanctions if the Janjaweed were not disarmed, but no action

CD, currently outlawed in Germany for its neo-Nazi content, contains offensive pro-white lyrics. While some of the lyrics are not subtle, many of them are. The songs include references to a former high-ranking Nazi official, Hermann Goering; the rise of Hitler; the German invasion of Paris; and a horrific act of racially-motivated violence from the movie American History X.

The exact lyrics are not immediately evident to the listener. Phrases like “White Supremacy!” and “Kill, kill, kill”

has been taken.

Countless news articles, heart-wrenching photos, and stories of survivors inform the world of each day’s horrors. Yet conditions have not changed for the better. A genocide is occurring in the Sudan, just as it occurred in Rwanda. United States government officials have made comparisons, promised aid, and threatened sanctions. These actions are not enough, simply because nothing

are strategically hidden beneath guitar riffs and a cacophony of blast beats and power chords, but are unmistakable upon closer listening. There are often offensive lyrics in popular music, but in the Panzerfaust CD the lyrics are decidedly subliminal, potentially creating acceptance and familiarity with pro-white slogans and ideas. Because of America’s guaranteed right to freedom of speech, it is difficult to determine if the music crosses any boundary besides a moral one.

has come of them. Rather than making frantic predictions of future casualties, the United States and all other governments must work together to get more African Union troops on the ground in Darfur, beginning with the promised 4,000. Governments, humanitarian groups, and citizens of the world must cease their expression of detached sorrow and work together to bring an end to this genocide.

As Facing History and Ourselves student Daniela Huynh (I) remarked, “with the influence of organizations like Panzerfaust on the internet and through various mediums, kids no longer need to be taught to hate by others; they are teaching themselves to hate.” This is just what Panzerfaust wants. The record label boasts at the bottom of Project Schoolyard’s main page, “PANZERFAUST: WEDONTJUST ENTERTAIN RACIST KIDS, WE CREATE THEM.”

School's Technology Remains Underused

BY ANDREW HANNON, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It goes without saying that Boston Latin has some of the best technology of any high school in the country. There is an overhead projector in almost every classroom and there is additional software on the computers to run them. But many times this technology is not being utilized, due to both equipment and teacher training problems.

These Sony overheads are truly amazing and have the potential to be great resources to teachers, and for many of them they already are. For other teachers, however, it can become a tedious task just to start them up. When the projectors were first installed it wasn’t uncommon to see teachers or students wielding a broomstick or a metal pole while trying to press a button on the projectors just to turn them on.

Actually watching programming is another substantial hurdle for many teachers. To watch school news and channels such as CNN, each computer has software from Array Technology, Inc. In the last year, BLSTV has started broadcasting every morning via the overheads, but many homerooms do not get to see the program. In theory it should not be too difficult for every homeroom to watch BLSTV, but for many teachers it proves a challenge nevertheless. The teacher must be able tune the computer to find the available channels, a process that can be overly complicated for computer novices. Not all teachers have attended voluntary formal training in running this new software, and attempting to teach themselves in homeroom or in class wastes valuable teaching or preparation time, defeating the intended purpose of the devices. The projectors are supposed to aid in learning, not abet it.

Still, much of the BLS faculty is familiar with the technology and competent in its use. Ten randomly selected teachers were asked, “How often do you use your overhead?” Eight of the polled said they use their overhead often, while only two did not. However, there is a major complaint among teachers: the remotes which are supposed to accompany the projector have gone missing. Still, this is not a major setback, considering what an addition the projectors are to the school’s

classrooms.

Many feel that teachers are hired to teach, not fix computers. And while it may be that some simply do not want to use the in-class computer systems, many more just do not know exactly how to run them. Ms. McDonald, an eighth grade English teacher, says that she “should know how to troubleshoot and fix a problem” and she is “very grateful that students are often willing to help”. Yet feelings of discomfort and uncertainty are not uncommon problems among the populace in general, never mind teachers. Technology is advancing rapidly and with so many new and different problems, it usually takes someone who is a technology specialist to fix them and educate others as well. As Mr. Ramos says, “Some teachers are more familiar with technology than others.”

While problems with the new technology at Boston Latin are frustrating for students and teachers alike, the school does offer a team of computer experts prepared to help instruct teachers and students in how to use the school’s computer system. The school’s technology professionals are Ms. DeMore and Ms. Meany. In addition, three teachers are available for help with technical problems: Mr. Ramos, Mr. Southwick, Mr. Osowiecki. According to Ms. Meany, she responded to requests for technology help with a series of summer workshops that were well attended by teachers. There will be a one-time technology orientation session in the library for new teachers, as well as monthly sessions with the teacher advisors on any projector problems etc. Despite all the help available, these people are not able to help everyone at once, so it is still sometimes the responsibility of the user to problem-solve on his own.

Computers are considered necessities today, and they are not going to go away any time soon. Teachers are not the only people around who find these systems difficult, especially those from a generation that was educated before the era of the fully technology-integrated classroom. Nevertheless it seems somewhat disappointing that Boston Latin has all this technology at its disposal that still is not being used to its fullest extent.

With additional reporting by Michelle Yan (V) and Chenglin Yuan (V).

Opinion Polls Explained

BY KATIE HARRISON, III
STAFF WRITER

Political polls have often been called into question of late, both in terms of their accuracy and their relevance. While it may be of interest to know who is leading a presidential race, these numbers often seem to have a ripple effect. It is feared that instead of voting for a desirable candidate, people vote for the candidate they perceive to be the more popular. Not surprisingly, the perceived winners and losers are often determined through telephone surveys. But beyond the issue of appropriateness, questions have been raised about how well these polls represent the public sentiment.

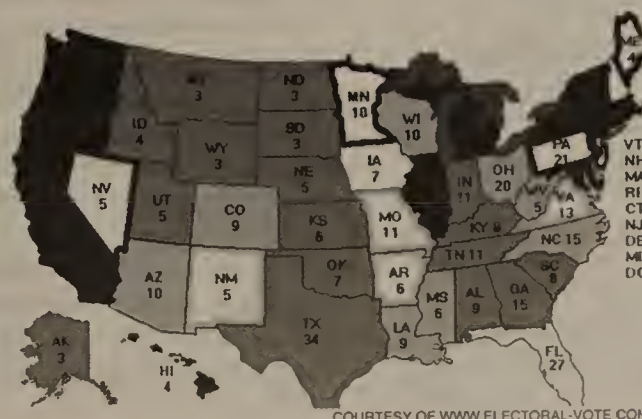
There is by necessity a certain margin of error to every poll. While it would be far more accurate to have information from every registered voter in the nation, this is impractical, and pollsters must rely on samplings that are often miniscule. If the sample size is too small—not usually a problem in major national polls—the results will be skewed. Even with a significant sample size, however, no poll can be relied upon as completely accurate. In a tight race such as this year’s presidential elections, results showing the two contenders separated by 2 percent are unreliable. Again, there is concern that tiny differences in percentage points can influence voters more than is warranted.

Poll results are affected by the order and content of the questions asked. Many groups including the Gallup Organization, one of the most respected national pollsters, ask voters a series of questions before finally asking their choice of candidate. Asking questions in this order may raise additional issues in voters’ minds that previously would not have affected their votes.

Most pollsters poll registered voters, and also create a category for ‘likely voters.’ Different organizations consider different individuals to be likely voters, influencing the final results. Factors such as voting history, purported intention to vote, as well as attention to the campaign are included in the estimate of likely voters. These are fairly good indicators of whether or not a person will vote, but nevertheless can be misleading in the case of a very tight election or one that may draw new voting blocs to the polls.

Another influential factor is party distribution. Some pollsters assume that more of a certain demographic—men, women, older or younger voters, Republicans, Democrats—may turn out to vote, and weigh the numbers accordingly. This has been misleading in the past, as many factors can influence how many of each group turn out to vote. Often, expanded polls are more revealing than simple percentages. When a polling organization reports the percentages for each demographic group, the numbers begin to take on more meaning than a simple “horse race.”

Not surprisingly, one new factor in polls’ effectiveness is based on technology: the cell phone. Young voters are less likely to have a land line than their elder counterparts, and may rely solely on a cell phone. As a result, they will not be polled: survey researchers are automatically prohibited from calling wireless phones. Whole blocks of numbers and dialing prefixes are excluded from polls because these blocks contain many wireless numbers. Pollsters claim that most cell-only users are young and mobile, and are statistically unlikely to vote. However, it seems certain that this issue will only increase in importance as time goes on and more people go wireless.



NEWS

Meet the New Teachers — All Thirteen of Them

Susan Filipi

BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

What subject do you teach?

9th and 10th grade World History.

Where did you come from originally?

I was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada, but my family moved to North Dakota when I was ten and I spent the next 13 years there.

Tell us one interesting thing about yourself.

Five years ago I was diagnosed with a stage-three metastatic melanoma. Only 20 percent of those diagnosed survive for five years. I'm one of the fortunate ones.

What colleges did you attend?

University of North Dakota; University of Texas; University of Massachusetts.

Do you have any hobbies or favorite pastimes?

I enjoy quilting, walking my yellow lab, doing things with my boys. My interests include historic costumes, football, modern warfare, and swimming.

What is one thing that you have already learned from being in BLS, and how has your experience been so far?

The one thing I've learned is that the students here are awesome! They constantly challenge me to provide interesting lessons. They ask thoughtful and provocative questions, and they have been extremely supportive of me, knowing that this is my first year teaching.

Any tidbits?

I am excited to be starting a new career at this stage of my life. My boys are both in college, with the oldest at McGill University, and the youngest at Ohio State University, so teaching is keeping me from missing them. I'm just that busy, preparing lessons, correcting papers and recording grades. It consumes most of my free time but I don't mind because it is such an incredibly rewarding job. I'm loving every minute of it.

Angela Jamal

BY CHENGLIN YUAN (V)

What subjects do you teach?

Health and Physical Education.

Is this your first time teaching?

I taught at Boston Latin Academy for twelve years.

Tell us one interesting thing about yourself.

I have five children from ages 24 to 14, and my husband and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in August.

What colleges did you attend?

University of Massachusetts-Amherst for B.S. degree; Simmons College M.E.D. for M.S.

Do you have any hobbies or favorite pastimes?

I've studied yoga and Eastern healing systems. I've also written a book on health for teens that I am trying to get published one day.

How has your experience at BLS been so far?

The students are wonderful to teach and the administration and teaching staff are kind and have been professional, supportive and a pleasure to work with.

Any tidbits or thoughts?

It's going to be difficult to watch a sports game between Boston Latin Academy and Latin School. I guess I'll have to be neutral for a while! My cultural heritage is African-American, Cape Verdean, and Irish.

Steve Watson

BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

What subject do you teach?

I work in the Library.

Where did you work before?

I've worked in the Boston Public Schools for 15 years, including English High and the Arts Academy.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

Ms. Kelley was once a student of mine.

What colleges did you attend?

University of Massachusetts-Amherst for B.A.; Boston College for M.Ed.; Fitchburg State College for M.S.

What are some of your interests or hobbies?

Reading, going to the Cape, taking my dogs to the beach, watching the Patriots, and traveling.

How has your experience at BLS been so far?

It is tough being a new teacher sometimes. The more I learn about the students, the more I like Latin School.

Kristen Stumpo

BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

What subjects do you teach?

Italian and French.

Where are you from?

I am originally from Walpole, Mass.

Tell us one interesting thing about yourself.

I lived in Italy last year while completing my master's degree in Italian.

What colleges did you attend?

As an undergraduate I went to College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. For graduate school I went to Middlebury College in Vermont and the University of Florence in Italy.

Do you have any special interests or hobbies?

I love film, sports, reading, shopping and fashion.

What is one thing that you have already learned from being at Boston Latin School?

One thing that I've learned here at BLS is that the students here are a pleasure to work with, and that makes my job more enjoyable!

How have your experiences been here so far?

My experience so far has been wonderful. I am really looking forward to the rest of the year here at BLS.

Monica Ares

BY CHENGLIN YUAN (V)

What subjects do you teach?

Geometry, Algebra II, and Algebra I.

Where are you from?

I was born in Spain and grew up in Cape Cod.

Tell us one interesting thing about yourself.

I just got engaged!

What colleges did you attend?

I went to Bowdoin College as an undergraduate and Harvard University for graduate school.

Do you have any hobbies or favorite pastimes?

Ballet, tap-dancing, running and flute.

So far, what have you learned from your experiences at BLS?

The students are incredible, the parents are supportive and the facility is better than most colleges.

Any tidbits?

BLS is a demanding but wonderful school.

Dawn Henderson

BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

What subject do you teach?

English.

Where are you from?

Brooklyn, New York.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I love science fiction. My favorite shows are Quantum Leap and Star Trek: The Next Generation.

What colleges did you attend?

I got my B.A. at the State University of New York in Buffalo and my M.A. at Simmons College.

What are some of your interests or hobbies?

My interests include reading, watching movies, and eating anything chocolate. My hobbies are photography and bird watching.

What is one thing that you have learned from being at BLS this year? How has your experience here been so far?

My experience thus far has been great. As for what I have learned, I quote the movie Ferris Bueller's Day Off: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Any tidbits?

I look forward to reading the Argo.

Lynne Mooney-Teta

BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

What is your position?

Assistant Head Master.

What college did you attend?

I am a 1986 graduate of Boston Latin School, and went to Harvard College.

Describe some of your past work experience.

I taught English and Social Studies in Belmont. Since 1996, I have been an Assistant Principal—first at Dedham High, and most recently in Needham.

What do you hope to achieve at Boston Latin School?

One of my goals is to work with the teachers and support them in providing the best educational experience for their students.

Do you have any new plans for the students?

I also want to work with students and support them in meeting their various goals.

How have your experiences here been so far?

I am truly enjoying my re-entry into BLS. I am getting to know the teachers, and spending as much time as I can in classrooms. There are wonderful things happening here every day.

Qimei (Rose) Li

BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

What subject(s) do you teach?

Chinese.

Where are you from?

Beijing, China.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I used to be a broadcaster in China.

What colleges did you attend?

I graduated from Anhwei University of China, George Mason University in Virginia, and Montgomery College.

Do you have any special interests?

I enjoy singing Beijing opera and being master of ceremonies for various shows. I love small animals!

How would you describe your experience here so far?

As a whole, students from Boston Latin School are really eager to learn. I enjoy my students and I have high expectations

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FORUM

Senior Privileges

Pro



BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

By JOSH SPEICHER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As seniors at one of the toughest high schools in the country, we deserve a few perks from the administration from time to time. We've all done our time and paid our dues. We've spent numerous hours late at night studying or doing homework, attending practice, rehearsals, and dress rehearsals, holding bake sales, fund-raisers, and providing countless services in the name of the Boston Latin School. What do we get in return? Not very much.

One of the most important privileges for a senior is parking: the right to be able to drive to school without having to fight over the one or two available spots in the Fens. If there's no room in the school lot, why not give seniors vouchers to park in the lots around the Fens? Would it be such a bad thing for the oldest, most experienced students in the school to be able to sleep a little later every morning? Seniors need all the rest they can get, and giving them a place to park would go a long way toward reducing this stress.

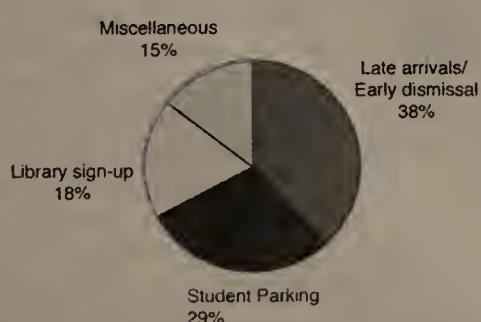
Another privilege to consider: how about letting seniors come in late if they have a study first period, or leave early if they have one last period? It would reduce traffic in the hallways, and more importantly, provide seniors with the needed rest and flexibility for their schedules. Why make seniors stay in school and be forced to sit through a class twiddling their thumbs for forty-five minutes when stacks of college applications are waiting to be filled out at home? Why make us rush to get here early in the morning to watch the hands on a clock move, when we stayed up late the night before to finish our work?

Priority should be given to seniors in signing up for the library, as well. It would be no great tragedy if an eighth-grader had to sit through his study hall, instead of the library, telling fart jokes with his friends for a period; after all, seniors have a greater need for the resources in the library—the computers, copy machines, scanners, and the comfortable study spaces—than the younger students.

Furthermore, seniors should not be forced to sit in the cafeteria like prisoners in the morning. We wouldn't crowd the hallways or disrupt whatever secret "business" is going on in our school before 7:25 a.m. After all, we sometimes need to get to our lockers early in the morning or to speak with teachers about college recommendations—isn't the school supposed to help us? Then why make us sit in the cafeteria for fifteen minutes, the teachers guarding our escape like hounds?

As seniors, we have given a lot to Latin School over the years. We've devoted our free time, our hard work, and our lives to this place. It would only be fair for our school to recognize these efforts and to throw us a few bones from time to time—making the most nerve-wracking, pressure-packed year a little more bearable. Give us a place to park, so that getting here is easier. Make sure we have a spot in the library so we have a place to study. Let us leave early or come in late, and don't herd us all into cafeteria like sheep before 7:25 a.m. After all, we deserve recognition for our efforts—that shouldn't be too much to ask.

Most Desired Senior Privilege



The Argo invites and encourages members of the Boston Latin School community to submit editorial opinions concerning issues of importance to them for publication in subsequent issues. To submit material, please contact the Editor, Lisa Jing (118), or Assistant Editors Frankline Ho (130) and Rebecca Adams (101). The Argo editorial board can be reached at blsargo@gmail.com.

Con

By MALCOLM FLYNN
ASSISTANT HEAD MASTER

Members of Class I at the Boston Latin School often express a feeling of entitlement to a set of senior privileges that would somehow set them apart from the general run of students; these privileges, if granted, would, it seems to those who express their deeply felt desire, augment their self-esteem and increase the regard in which they are held by underclassmen. Among the lack of privileges I hear about most often are permission to come to school late and to leave early, to go wherever one wishes within the school whenever one wishes, to leave school for lunch, to park in the school yard, to carry coffee and doughnuts through the hallways and into the home rooms, to eat and drink during class, to smoke cigarettes on Palace Road, essentially to be free from the oversight of the masters.

Not in this millennium will permission be granted to students at the Boston Latin School to engage in such activities. It is expected, instead, that members of Class I will model excellent behavior for the less mature students in the school; in fact, the first privilege devolving upon members of Class I is that of responsible leadership within the school. That leadership within begets the second privilege, that of representing the school to the community at large through individual achievement and as members of school teams and other groups. We the faculty speak with pride of the outstandingly responsible and creative leadership demonstrated by most of those who enter Class I.

However, students will be asking what privileges they might be granted within the school that would make the school day experience somehow different for members of Class I. Do they not see that each year they have been expected to assume more responsibility for their own education? That while they have been required to take six courses per year since Class IV, each year they have had more choice in which courses to take? That they have had opportunities in rigorous honors and advanced placement courses only because they have been well-prepared? That over one hundred sports and other extra-curricular activities have afforded them opportunities further to exercise and develop leadership qualities? That the high expectations the masters and the school have for them are leading them to discover their true selves so they may choose well in making life decisions?

With Boston Latin School students in all classes as well as with alumni, members of Class I share the privilege of attending the oldest school in America, a school public from the beginning, and from the beginning providing an education in the classics and a foundation for a lifetime of learning in the colleges and universities and beyond, a school that ever has brought together students from diverse backgrounds and creeds, that has been fair in both benevolence and harshness, that has sent its graduates into every trade, occupation, and profession as leaders and thinkers.

Some have argued that greater trust is due to members of Class I and that rules ought to be less strictly enforced. On the contrary, I argue that trust is earned by students on all levels, and that rules need to be enforced on all levels, not only with younger students. Those who have earned positions of leadership through age and perseverance must be expected, in their maturity, to follow rules without urging, and must not expect their transgressions to be ignored so that others will envy their status. Recently, I have heard it said that students in Class I need their coffee, that they have important business to conduct with counselors, that they need to park their cars and for these and other reasons, they ought to be allowed to be tardy to school or class with no penalty, that they are due such privileges after years of obeying arbitrary rules.

Don't these concerns seem trivial alongside the real privileges that these students have? They study the classics with Cotton Mather, electricity with Benjamin Franklin, politics with Samuel Adams, penmanship with John Hancock, oratory with Edward Everett, poetry with Ralph Waldo Emerson, statesmanship with William Maxwell Evarts, philosophy with George Santayana, educational theory with Charles W. Eliot, business with Joseph P. Kennedy, music with Leonard Bernstein, law with Wade McCree, and philanthropy with Harry Keefe. And best of the best, if they persevere, they earn Boston Latin School diplomas.

Forum Question

Students: What senior privilege would you like to have the most?



BY JAMES MEALEY (II)

"To pick our own teachers, not necessarily the easy ones, but the ones we'd learn best from." —Vincent Huynh, II



BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

"Off-campus lunches, because our school lunches suck." —Diana Michta, III



BY MICHELLE YAN (V)

"I'd like to leave R7 early on study days and just have less school." —Bryan Rodriguez, IV

Teachers: Do you believe seniors deserve special privileges?



BY JAMES MEALEY (II)

"No. Seniors are still teenagers: with privileges come responsibility." —Francis Gerry Power, Mathematics



BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

"Yes. I think after six years of paying their dues, they deserve some recognition." —Joel Ramos, Library



BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

"Yes, we should have confidence in the seniors: they are role models for the other students." —Sandra Stuppard, History

FORUM

Out of the Zone

By REBECCA ADAMS, I
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Think back on the days when you would wake up in your childhood bedroom: ballerinas on the wall, fire trucks on the floor, scrunchies on the dresser, and superman action figures on your bed. You would get dressed in your hot pink spandex pants, your favorite neon-striped shirt (this is the late '80s early '90s, guys, bear with me) and grab your lunch box off the table.

Now, this is where the story begins to differ.

Some of us walk out of our front door and wait for that big yellow school bus with the words "Boston Public Schools" painted in bold black letters on the side. The rest of us walk out the front door, past the bus stop, past kids waiting to go to a different school, and continue walking the five, maybe ten, blocks to school.

I got to experience both of these worlds. I lived in West Roxbury and took the bus to the Mozart school for kindergarten. Then I moved to Roslindale where I would walk the ten blocks to school each day. I loved walking since it meant I could get up a half an hour later, feeling old and mature as I headed down Beech St.

I feel that it is best for kids to attend a neighborhood school, as the sense of community derived from this experience is enormous. More parents are able to attend school events when their child attends a neighborhood school, and more kids can play together after school, instead of being bused off

to different neighborhoods.

On the other hand, cultural and socioeconomic integration would disappear completely if schools were to stop busing kids from different neighborhoods. The plan that the Boston School Committee is reviewing currently would put into play six different school districts for elementary school kids, but

this system is going back in time. However, it is undeniable that the history of busing remains an integral part of the history of Boston itself.

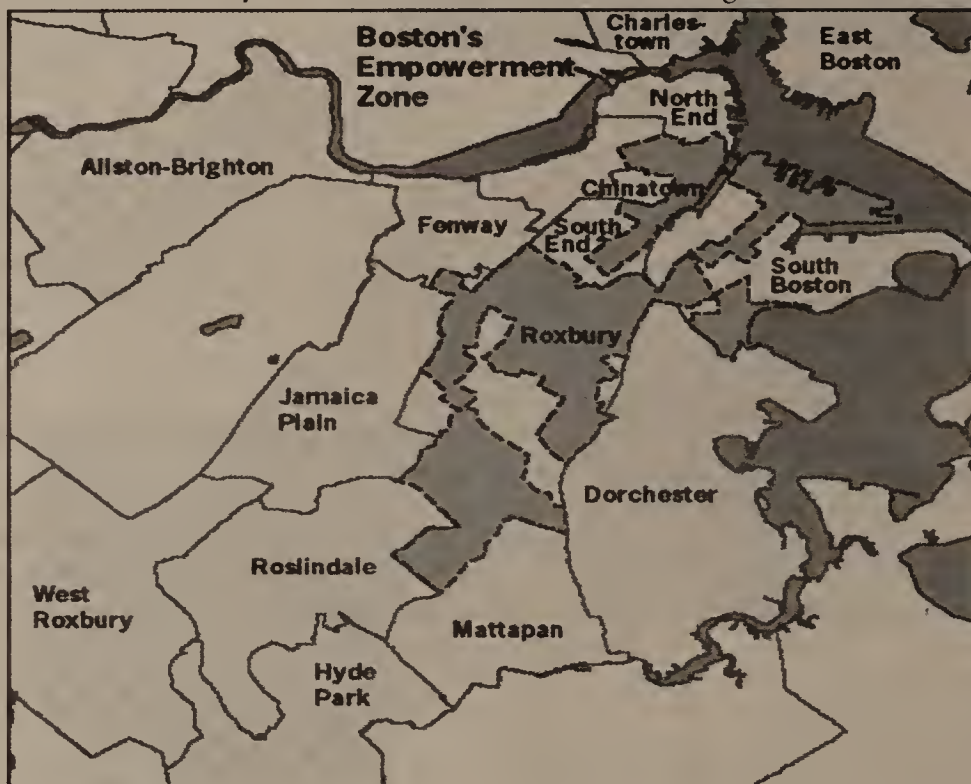
About twenty-five years ago, the city of Boston decided to integrate the school systems by busing kids from different towns within the city, getting rid of the idea of "neighborhood schools." It

of their students from the local area. This plan seemed to be working until an investigation was conducted and people found that schools in West Roxbury only took two percent of their students from West Roxbury. Dorchester and Roxbury, on the other hand, had about 90 percent of their students coming from their own community. But, why?

Some attribute these statistics to the fact that the most sought-after schools are in West Roxbury, while the least desirable ones are in Dorchester and Roxbury. Because of the school lottery system with which many of us are familiar, kids that do not get in to the most sought-after schools are usually placed closer to home.

Getting rid of busing would be beneficial to the city of Boston. The busing plans cost over \$59 million dollars last year, a number that would decrease greatly if transportation were to be reduced. The downside of this action would be the lack of integration. If schools in predominantly white areas such as West Roxbury were to stop accepting students from other communities, they would, as a result, have an unintegrated, white, population. The same would be true for predominately black neighborhoods.

Here, at Boston Latin, students remain divided on the issue: some claim that they loved riding the bus when they were kids. Others reminisced about going over to their friends' houses across the street after school. Either way, the plan the School Committee is currently reviewing is an improvement that would not hurt to be put into action.



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only three different school districts for middle school kids. The reasoning behind the plan maintains that if kids crave diversity and integration, they'll be able to find these values in middle school, after they've already established a sense of community in elementary school. Some say that the plan sounds too conservative, while others feel that

was not an easy task to begin neighborhood busing, and the policy faced much protest (namely from South Boston and Charlestown). Now, though, we seem to be moving back slowly to our original system.

In 1998, there was a plan agreed upon to minimize busing. Schools were required to export close to 50 percent

Feature Film Forbidden at BLS

By QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, V
STAFF WRITER

By now, many of you have probably heard of *Fever Pitch* – the Farrelly Brothers' film starring Jimmy Fallon as an avid Red Sox fan, and Drew Barrymore as his thoroughly frustrated girlfriend. Though the majority of the film was done in Canada, parts of it were shot at Fenway Park. Game attendees were used as extras, while Jesus-esque-haired centerfielder, Johnny Damon, vied for a role.

However, a screenwriter, a Boston College High School graduate, wanted to add another touch of authenticity to the film – a local school. And not just any local school, but the *Boston Latin School*. Yup, good old Boston Latin School was going to be featured in a movie practically guaranteed to be a box-office hit. Who could resist the classic building, the notoriety, the iconic status, and the close proximity to Fenway Park? Finally, a chance to be in the media for something besides residency issues or MCAS scores. A couple of shots of the building, a good look at classrooms to be duplicated on set in Canada, and a handful of students to act as extras. Good publicity, a definite cool factor, and hey, maybe a chance to be on the big screen. Great, right?

Wrong.

There will be no cameras wandering the halls after hours, no cameo appearance of the oldest school in Boston or any of its current students – a fact for which you can

thank our very own Headmistress, Ms. Cornelia Kelley. The School Department had agreed to the request, but informed the moviemakers that such a big decision had to be deferred to the Head Master. When asked about the potential project, she deemed the appearance inappropriate, stating, "I declined [the movie] based on reading the script. I believe the treatment of teaching was cavalier and the portrayal of a master here was not in keeping with the reverence due to a teacher."

Ms. Kelley also added that, in addition to *Fever Pitch*, Boston Latin denied *Crossing Jordan* and *Boston Public* the permission to allude to the school in their scripts.

But, wait, isn't she always the one who tells us to represent the Boston Latin School in every way possible whether we're on Mars or Earth, awake or asleep? Isn't she always the one anxious to make our accomplished and rich alumni proud, and our school internationally renowned? Well, no better way to achieve this glory than in a real-life, big-screen, Boston-themed movie! Hey, if the filmmakers really wanted to use Boston Latin, and Ms. Kelley had pursued it, how much do you think they would've paid? Enough for a few more books in the library?

For now, though, we will just have to sit back and watch the real stars of the movie, the Boston Red Sox, win a few more games and the schools currently in contention for the role battle it out for that place up on the big screen next to Fallon and Beantown's best.

Supreme Court Hangs Ten

By YUCONG MA, II
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

On October 12, the Supreme Court surprised many legislators with its sudden decision to review a sensitive religious issue in its upcoming slate of cases. Early next year, the high court will hear an appeal on the display of the Ten Commandments on government land and buildings. In Texas, a Ten Commandments monument on state Capitol grounds is being considered as a potentially unconstitutional endeavor because it gives the illusion of state-sponsored religion. Promotion of one faith in particular or any religion over others is strictly barred by the Constitution. Also, in Kentucky the ruling of a lower court that banned posting the Ten Commandments in state courthouses is being appealed as a part of a separate case. Court officials of McCrery and Pulaski counties in Kentucky hung framed copies of the Ten Commandments inside their courthouses, and only when the legality of this action was challenged did they add other significant documents including the Magna Carta of 1215 and the Declaration of Independence.

More importantly, however, last week, ex-Chief Justice of Alabama, Roy Moore, lost his battle to have an appeal – another involving the Ten Commandments – heard by the Supreme Court. Moore was removed from office after ignoring a federal order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the

Supreme Court Building in Montgomery, Alabama. With their 1980 decision to ban the posting of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms in mind, this move has unexpectedly cast the Supreme Court into an uncomfortable spotlight.

Under close political scrutiny, the Supreme Court must take care not to bow to pressure from religious influences. As America moves further into the 21st century and encounters new political battlegrounds, a firm separation of church from state is necessary in order to deal with other political and religious hot potatoes such as gay marriage, a woman's right to choose and the development of stem cell research. Next spring, this case will prove to be not only just another bone of contention but also, more significantly, a chance for this country's highest court to pass down another firm decision to the American people concerning their basic right to a government without direct religious influence.

It is time for the legislators behind these cases to realize that Christian morals are not exclusive to Christian worshippers and that secular beliefs against stealing, killing, and adultery, all part of the Ten Commandments, are more easily expressed and accepted without the heavy burden of religion and organized faith. To borrow a phrase from Senator John Kerry, which was reiterated in the presidential debate on October 13, "articles of faith" are not applicable to all Americans.

With reporting from the Salt Lake Tribune.



CARTOON BY ANNEKE SCHWOB (II)

A Cosby Controversy

By ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past May marked the golden anniversary of the landmark decision of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case, in which the Supreme Court declared the doctrine of "separate but equal," particularly within education, as being inherently unconstitutional. The well-anticipated event was expected to bestow immense adulation upon the black community, but the festivities surrounding this commemoration would soon be disrupted in a furor of controversy, when "America's Favorite Dad," William H. Cosby, vociferously chastised the pathologies of lower income black communities as destructive and unacceptable. Among his comments, Cosby emphasized the lack of personal and collective responsibility as the cause for these individuals' low economic statuses, ignorance, and incarcerations:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the lower economic people are not holding up their end in this deal. These people are not parenting. They are buying things for kids - \$500 sneakers for what? And won't spend \$200 for 'Hooked on Phonics. They're standing on the corner and they can't speak English. I can't even talk the way these people talk: 'Why you ain't,' 'Where you is' ... And I blamed the kid until I heard the mother talk. And then I heard the father talk. ... Everybody knows it's important to speak English except these knuckleheads. ... You can't be a doctor with that kind of crap coming out of your mouth!"

Initially, those in attendance, including NAACP president, Kweisi Mfume met Cosby's remarks at the Constitution Hall event with applause and laughter. Mfume even expressed his agreement after the celebration, stating that he had touched on similar points in many of his own speeches. The remarks would not have received nearly as much attention if Cosby had not reiterated his views on the nationally syndicated talk show, *The Tavis Smiley Show* later that month. Leave it to the mainstream media, led by the always reliable and politically

correct conservatives, to incorporate the incident among the Abugrade prison scandal and the Democratic National Convention hoopla, which at the time served as the nation's top stories.

The spread of this news created unnecessary hostility towards the always-generous Cosby, whose devotion to the Black community is evident in the millions of dollars he donates to higher educational programs, particularly for blacks. Now, with his image tainted, countless cultural icons and commentators criticized Cosby's remarks as "hypocritical and elitist," regarding the once beloved Cosby as disloyal and disgruntled. The national media also provoked outrage among



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many consensual or indifferent African-American communities. Radical groups, such as the Black panthers, would soon find themselves regarding Cosby as being "incognegro" – apathetic to the struggles of the lower income black communities, an appeaser to a conservative majority, who over the past forty some odd years, have come to adore the man.

However, Cosby's concerns are hardly unfamiliar. Cosby has always been an advocate for the empowerment and improvement of the black community in his standup, his books and his television

programs. Other Black activists such as Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton have made previous acknowledgements concerning the same hypocritical and elitist views. Yet, why is it that Cosby's opinions have caused such controversy? If, in fact, these issues are nothing new, why is it that this country is paying so much attention to them? Why do they care?

Interpretations to these questions may vary, but in order to answer them, an issue of consistency must be examined. Activists such as Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton are famed for their outrageous antics and outspokenness. But Bill Cosby, known best as the hilarious, affectionate, and never contentious Heathcliff Huxtable, on the hit television sitcom, "The Cosby Show," has been relatively neutral on explosive issues, especially regarding race. Race is an extremely sensitive topic in this country. Therefore, when a validation as blunt and as unapologetic as Cosby's remarks proved to be, comes from one who has remained so seemingly low profile on similar issues throughout his career, chaos and pandemonium ensues. (Also recall the Barry Bonds incident regarding his comments concerning racism in Boston this past summer). Too often, the image of the "Black Man" has to be one of consistency: either he is the smiling subservient and passive caricature, whose fun loving opinions and antics

never contradict with that of the majority, or he is the militant and aggressive activist, with whom conflict is inevitable – but never both. When Cosby spoke out at the Brown vs. The Board of Education gala in May, he breeched this contract.

Nonetheless, what has yet to be acknowledged among the mainstream media is that Cosby's opinions are correct for the most part. No doubt, there is a distinct correlation between the events of this nation's history (e.g. nearly four hundred years of enslavement

and the subsequent hundred years of institutionalized racism) and the current social position of many Black Americans. And true, African-Americans have never formally been given reparations, or any monetary form of compensation, for the oppression of their ancestors. But what Cosby is trying to get across to the public is that it is time for many members of the Black Community to stop playing the victim, and to take advantage of the opportunities provided for them by the Civil Rights movement. The amounting years of poverty and uneducated youth has led to Cosby's and the rest of the Black community's understandable frustration. Cosby has invested too much of his time, money and patience into these communities. Even with the emplacement of civil rights laws, which were fought for in this country with relentless perseverance, resulting in the deaths of many, there has been little to show for these efforts.

Since the end of the Jim Crow Era however, African-Americans have made tremendous strides. The Black middle class has expanded dramatically over the past forty years, and improvements have been made in education, economic standing and social behavior. But the subject of Cosby's remarks was not this demographical minority. He intended for his message to reach a subset of the African-American population, the underclass low-income blacks, who have comprised a disproportionate amount of impoverished and drug-laced communities throughout the nation. Yet, comments rebutting Cosby's remarks were, for the most part, not coming from lower income blacks. Instead, the response that the general public would hear were from either the extremely conservative or extremely liberal media, via the news and talk radio, which never acknowledged Cosby's true political message. His comments were not aimed towards lower income blacks as weapons to further penetrate the wound of ignorance and poverty, but as words of inspiration and wisdom, that would hopefully provide a catalyst for the improvement of the communities as a whole.

FORUM

Hip Hoppin' the Vote

BY ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On the July 26, a chartered plane holding some of the most revered cultural icons of the Hip-Hop industry landed at Logan airport. However, unlike the thousands of democratic delegates propagating their liberal enthusiasm and Kerryisms across the brick and cobble streets of Downtown Boston, the passengers aboard this plane advocated a very different kind of political message. Boston was one of many urban communities across the nation targeted by Hip Hop mogul/entrepreneur, Russell Simmons, and the Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN). HSAN is a non-profit and non-partisan coalition working in partnership with entertainment industry leaders, civil rights activists, educators, youth leaders and contemporary artists, whose main mission is: "to harness the cultural relevance of Hip-Hop music to serve as a catalyst for education advocacy and other societal concerns fundamental to the well-being of at-risk youth throughout the United States." Unlike similar organizations such as Rock the Vote, HSAN is targeted primarily towards lower income minorities within urban communities.

The Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury held its doors open free of charge for all registered voters that Monday morning, attracting thousands of young people into a culturally diverse assembly. The majority of those in attendance were Blacks and Hispanics from lower income communities, and who were recruited also by Boston Latin alumnus Ron Bell, the executive

director of HSAN's local correspondent, Dunk the Vote. Bell, who had trained one hundred volunteers to help with the voter registration effort, described the event as a way of "taking back responsibility and making a difference."

Speaking on the panel of entertainers and television personalities included Russell Simmons, Lloyd Banks, Wyclef Jean, Farnsworth Bentley, Reverend Run, and Free from 106 and Park. The theme of the discussion was focused on redirecting, protecting and celebrating the community, while promoting the importance of voting within urban communities.

Too often, the hip-hop community has been accused of having a negative impact on the young minds of this generation—this charge either pertains to artistic differences, (i.e. the suggestive and frequently offensive lyrics) or the seemingly extravagant and carefree lifestyles these artists lead. While the validity of this statement is debatable, the enormous influence that hip-hop has had on contemporary mainstream audiences, principally among the lower income communities, cannot be denied.

Over the past twenty years, the United States has watched the hip-hop community expand into an extremely marketable and profitable industry. However, those who are most closely affected and associated with this community are a part of the same targeted audiences which have become the victims of a social epidemic. Many of these young people feel as though their participation is



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insignificant, and that the social elite that will never become responsive to their needs, therefore refusing to vote. This distinct lack of political awareness and social consciousness has become extremely prevalent among many of the economically challenged, as well as the more affluent communities across the nation, thus creating an inactive and uninformed generation. However, it is the former whom have suffered more as a result of their lack of action; they are the ones directly af-

ected by many of the policies being passed on taxes, employment and education in both our local and national governments.

During the last presidential election, only 51 percent of American citizens between the ages of 18 to 24 were registered to vote, and of that category, only 61 percent actually did. However, less than a quarter of them were of color, and little more than a third of this group was from lower economic communities. It is imperative, then, to implement a device that will help this population emerge in society and take the necessary action needed to improve their own lives. Many of the celebrities involved in the Hip Hop Summit coalition serve as a catalyst for the promotion of responsible and proactive social change that would bring an end to this war on poverty and injustice.

What earned the president's respect for this event this past year was its non-partisan edge—young people were empowered and encouraged to vote on issues prevalent to them, not to a given party's political agenda. At times, the goal of achieving a non-biased discussion was deviated, with many of the spotlighted guests blatantly advocating a more democratic position on issues regarding tax breaks and the possible draft. Russell Simmons spoke openly about a tax cut that he had received, and proceeded to slander the Bush administration. Later that week, Simmons even appeared on many press junkets at the Democratic National Convention to promote the organization. Nonetheless, the Hip Hop Summit was a positive organization, which ultimately helped to register over 8,000 financially disadvantaged people, en-

Sudan: Still, We Stand By

BY JEFF BAUSEMER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During the last hour and a half of the second presidential debate, twenty people may have died and over one hundred fifty driven from their homes in Darfur, Sudan. Since March of 2003, when the African rebellion first began, the conflict seemed like an uprising based on economic disparity. This was not the case. The Sudanese government enlisted the help of the Arab Janjaweed, the killers responsible for these deaths, knowing full well that these militiamen were vicious criminals. When the small rebellion was quashed, the attacks by the Janjaweed continued. The U.N. passed multiple resolutions to disarm the Janjaweed, but to no avail.

The crimes in this genocide have been grave: thousands of Darfurians have been pushed from their homes; the refugee camps are said to be worse than prisons—one guard for every ten thousand people; and the conditions there, combined with the Janjaweed attacks, have caused over two hundred deaths a day since September. The Regime in Khartoum has not allowed for foreign troops to attack the Janjaweed, nor have they stripped them of their superior firepower.

It is clear now that the government in Khartoum is in favor of an entirely Arab Sudan. Even with the increased worldwide attention devoted to the conflict in the past few months, the number of displaced peoples has not decreased. In addition, Arabs have replaced many Africans filling political offices.

Why, then, is Kofi Annan, president of the U.N., still questioning whether the killings in Sudan count as genocide or not?

A viable answer may be the reluctance of the Sudanese government to cooperate with the resolutions proposed by the U.N.; they do not want the stigma of

"genocide" attached to their internal conflict. Annan has refrained from using the "G" word in order to negotiate more efficiently with the Khartoum Regime. Staggering information however, now exists to prove that the government is working in partnership with the Janjaweed in order to rid Darfur of its non-Arab population.

Furthermore, most of the Sudanese officials in Khartoum simply counter American criticism of the crisis—and not without reason—by comparing their dire situation to our chaotic situation in Iraq. This, along with our relationship with our allies, has allowed the rest of the world to sit by idly without remorse or repercussion. To foreign leaders from France and Russia, the United States' inability to relieve the crisis in Sudan is meant to teach us, the self-proclaimed "Police of the World," a lesson: we shouldn't take on responsibility that we can't handle. It's possible that, had we never opted for unilateral action in Iraq, the situation in Darfur might be different.

Samantha Powers, a scholar and activist in human rights, wisely notes, "The debate over semantics has only further distracted the international community from the more important debate about how to save lives." Annan knows this is a genocide, but he cannot raise enough troops or worldwide support to oppose outwardly the government in Sudan—nor can the African Union. Instead, the U.N. is left to work with the perpetrators instead of against them.

We must act now, before the elections take over the media. America may be the only country that can help; and we, as a part of the Boston Latin School community, can convince Congress to send 90 million dollars in aid by showing politicians that we do care. By becoming aware and increasing our own efforts, the global community may try and help us in our endeavors.

Jeff Bausemer
252 Savin Hill Avenue
Boston, MA 02125

October 9, 2004

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Sudan

Dear Mr. Lynch:

I am writing to ask for your support in responding to the humanitarian crisis in western Sudan and eastern Chad. As you are aware, this region has become the scene of one of the greatest humanitarian disasters on the face of the earth.

America seems to be the only country taking any initiative in defending Sudan and I would hope that we give the appropriated 95 million dollars they need to them because they need it more than we do. We launched a war on terror. This is terror, but we can't send in troops because our troops are stuck in Iraq. Since we can't help them by sending troops to stop the janjaweed and the Sudan government from attacking people in the Darfur region, let's at least help them meet their most urgent humanitarian needs.

While the United States government already has contributed financial and material resources for the Sudan emergency, it is not enough to meet the needs in this expanding crisis. The UN estimates that an additional \$274 million will be needed over the next four months just to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs, and prevent thousands more from dying in this crisis. Resources are also needed to support international efforts to improve security.

I urge you to work with House and Senate leaders this September to provide at least an additional \$90 million in humanitarian assistance as the U.S. share of the total needs. I also ask that you provide material support and financial resources for international efforts to improve the security situation in Darfur.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bausemer



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To e-mail a letter, follow the above format and go online to www.congress.org.

Simmons' Departure Shocks Student Body

BY QINGNI LIN, I
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

As the new school year welcomes sleepy-eyed students back to the floor of the drama arts and music wing, the absence of Mr. Brian Simmons, former choral teacher at the Boston Latin School, is felt by everyone.

Mr. Simmons first arrived at Boston Latin School in 2000 as a student teacher from the Berkeley School of Music, where he studied piano. Although known throughout the school as the phenomenal director of Gospel Choir, Concert Choir and Show Choir, Mr. Simmons actually started his teaching career as an instrumental teacher, assisting Mr. Paul Pitts with Football Band. Prompted by his love for choral music, Mr. Simmons agreed to help teach the Gospel Choir the following year. Even then, Megan Pitts (I), Co-Captain of Gospel Choir, remembered his "dedication to teaching and knowing the students as individuals," which prevailed

throughout his career at the Boston Latin School. In 2001, Mr. Simmons became a welcomed addition to the Latin School music staff when he succeeded Ms. Wong-Ho as teacher of general music to the seventh graders, ninth grade chorus, Concert Choir, Show Choir and Gospel Choir.

During his brief tenure, Mr. Simmons' infectious attitude characterized his teaching style and affected those around him. According to David Qin (III), Mr. Simmons "was not only a teacher - he was a friend." He was that teacher who knew everyone's name by the second day and who instinctively radiated a sense of understanding, which made him a confidante to many students. Every class he taught, Mr. Simmons exuded a sense of excitement that "made his students look forward to his class," according to Meredith Pierce (I). His seemingly perpetual fountain of energy and genuine concern for his students coupled with his love for music made him one of the most popular teachers.



MR. SIMMONS'S DEPARTURE HAS SHOCKED THE BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL COMMUNITY
BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

Although Mr. Simmons knew a surprising number of students and staff at the Boston Latin, his decision to go to Atlanta, Georgia to be with his family comes as a surprise to many. Because of his devotion to his Christian faith, evident by his frequent appearance at the Bible Club and the numerous references he makes to his religion, rumors circulated

that Mr. Simmons intended to become a minister. However, when Mr. Simmons made a brief visit to Boston Latin School in September, he explained that he has left in order to become a pianist for his church in Atlanta and pursue his dream of concert performances in Europe. As Megan Pitts explains, "Mr. Simmons felt that he has made the impact that God intended at ; he had done his duty here and it was time to give back to his own community."

In many ways, Mr. Simmons is an important activist in his community. He was a founder of World Music Restoration, a program dedicated to improving the "character, musical skills and...people skills" of local musicians. Mr. Simmons also directs his church choir in Atlanta, Georgia. Finally, as a passionate musician, Mr. Simmons is working on his second CD, which follows his first successful recording entitled "Music that Restores the Soul." In the words of Mr. Pitts, Mr. Simmons was "a great teacher, a great friend, a great person."

Fine Arts Reshuffled with New Teachers

BY OLIVIA PAQUETTE, II
STAFF WRITER

With the start of the new school year, two unfamiliar faces can be found in the Fine Arts Department. Strolling down the hallway on the fourth floor, home of the Black Box Theater and of the infamous band and chorus practice rooms, the space once occupied by Mr. Brian A. Simmons, choral director, and Sarah Teasdale, drama teacher and advisor, have been filled by two new teachers.

Replacing Ms. Teasdale as eighth-grade Connections Drama and faculty advisor for the Drama Club is Ms. Christa Crewdson of Chicago. After attending Hampshire College and Brown University, she worked for six years in Providence, Rhode Island, as an actress and director for the Looking Glass Theatre. She then worked six years at Quarters Middle School in Mansfield, Massachusetts. In Mansfield, Ms. Crewdson also directed two teen groups, the Uncommon Theatre

Company and the Improv Soup, an improvisational troupe.

The Boston Latin School's good reputation helped draw Ms. Crewdson to work here, but another determining factor was that our school includes grades seven through twelve. Ms. Crewdson says it was important for her to be able to work with both middle- and high-school students. In fact, the one change Ms. Crewdson will be making to the drama program this year will be to add an extra play for younger students, in addition to the yearly play which features mostly older students. "Peter Pan," which will be directed by Ms. Crewdson, is open to any actors in grades seven through ten. The addition of the second play, Ms. Crewdson hopes, will "get more people involved" in the drama program, and create more opportunities for students from every grade.

Mr. Christopher Charig replaces



CHOIR CONDUCTOR CHRISTOPHER CHARIG AND DRAMA DIRECTOR CHRISTA CREWDSON
BY OLIVIA PAQUETTE (II)

Mr. Simmons as conductor of the Concert Choir, Gospel Choir, and Show Choir, and teacher of Fundamentals of Music for members of Class VI. A native of New Jersey, Mr. Charig first came to Boston to attend Boston University. He has worked in both music and drama. A professional musician and vocalist, Mr. Charig, plays the piano and the guitar. In addition to directing church and school choirs, he has also directed musicals for the Stoneham Theatre-To-Go, a community theater.

Mr. Charig has also taught chorus, drama, and musical theater for three years in the Wakefield public school system

What attracted Mr. Charig to Boston Latin was his previous experience with the school. In 2000, he worked as a student teacher in the music program, and "fell in love with it." The students here, he says, are "wonderful" and "interested." Mr. Charig also enjoys working with Mr. Pitts, whom he sees as a "real mentor".

Like Ms. Crewdson, Mr. Charig does not plan to make any major changes to the program. He, too, simply wants to "create more opportunities" for students to participate in music. Ms. Crewdson and Mr. Charig hope to join forces this year to stage a musical. This will give students the chance to show off both their singing and acting abilities, and will employ the valuable talents and knowledge of our two new teachers.

Maestro Ministrates over Masses at Michaelmas

BY ALINA VORONOV, II
STAFF WRITER

A typical Holiday Concert at the Boston Latin School usually consists of standard songs and typical traditional music which may or may not grab the attention of the audience. Some will become restless in their seats as they hear the strings tuning, but such reaction will not be the case this year. This year, Mr. Slevira, conductor of the Chamber Ensemble, has carefully chosen Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* for the Holiday Concert, a program that is sure to excite even the most lethargic student. Though originally planning to perform Ottorino Respighi's *Airs and Ancient Dances*, Mr. Slevira decided that Respighi's piece would be more suitable for spring. He feels that this popular and challenging piece will be as exciting for the audience to listen to as it now is for our

skilled musicians to play. "[The piece's real] impact will be revealed as a result of placing it within happy, festive music". This piece poses a particular challenge to Mr. Slevira and the musicians because it is familiar to the audience. Due to the audience's familiarity, the orchestra must strive to play the opening movement in as creative and original a manner as possible, while still "being true to the composer's wishes." Mr. Slevira hopes that the audience will leave the concert, having heard new elements in the piece and having gained an appreciation of the nature and artistry of the composition.

Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* depicts the glorious triumph of the human spirit over Fate. The first movement, which the orchestra will play on December 16, 17 and 23, depicts Fate knocking on the door. Throughout the course of four movements, man is able to determine his destiny. Another challenge is the sheer structure of the music program. Mr. Pitts and

Mr. Slevira plan to create a symphony orchestra at the Latin School, but scheduling conflicts make this idea difficult to realize. As a result, the orchestra must rehearse after school on Tuesdays. Another prominent problem is the lack of woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments in the orchestra. With the exit of the Class of 2004 in June, sixty percent of the wind players have been lost. Mr. Slevira invites every musician at Boston Latin to "join [the orchestra, music program] if [he wishes] to perform some of the greatest music ever written." But it is Mr. Slevira's goal to challenge students even further in their musical endeavors. He is very proud of his student's hard work and encourages them to get involved in the arts outside of school as well. This new program and other efforts on behalf of the music department sound promising. You should look forward to a not-so-typical concert this year that may leave you humming.

BLS Goes Idol

BY YUCONG MA, II
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

On a Tuesday afternoon, some of the most brilliant voices at the Boston Latin School are gathered outside the small BLSTV Studio on the ground floor, nervously awaiting their fifteen minutes of fame.

"This is it...it's really happening." Dominic French (II) had good reason to be excited. No, the junior was not trying out. Dominic is the executive producer of BLS Idol, and he was awaiting his first contestant with almost as much nervousness as the contestants themselves.

For those unfamiliar with American Idol, BLS Idol's bigger and more renowned brother, contestants audition by singing a song of their choice a cappella. Twelve contestants are chosen from the first round to compete head-to-head against

See BLS GOES IDOL, page 14 »

FEATURE

END OF AN ERA FOR CA

Around the City, Parishioners Have Different Reactions

BY JULIA ARNOUS, III, REBECCA
BILODEAU, III, & AARON SUNSTEIN, I

EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATES & NEWS EDITOR

Early on a Sunday morning in late September, mass ends at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Roxbury. Most members of the diverse parish community head next door for coffee, all discussing the closing of their church. On her way out one woman explains how twenty-four years ago she and her husband decided to bring their family here, to a parish where they would be welcomed as biracial, since she is Hispanic and her husband is African-American. Jackson, a 10-year-old altar boy, has friends at the church and says all the priests know him. He doesn't know what he's going to do if the church closes.

Lucy, a teenager who has been coming to St. Mary's since she was six, plans on attending Our Lady of Lourdes, also in Roxbury. "It's just a building," Lucy says halfheartedly, "but it's still not the same." She is entering the basement of this unassuming white building where she was baptized and received her first communion in order to hear mass in Spanish. Another woman's daughter translates for her as she explains that she prays every day for the church to be saved. However, no translation is needed for her reaction when asked how she feels about the situation. "Triste."

The church bulletin makes it clear that this sentiment is widely shared, "Please Pray—Archbishop don't close the Parish." At this church masses in Spanish and English often include a third language; sometimes parts are even done in sign language. The first person we ask about the closure cuts off our introductions. "Well, we hope it won't close," she says tersely. Thrown off guard, we simply nod and stutter apologies.

After mass, leaning on pews and listening intently to another parishioner, we begin to see that this parish holds strong beliefs about social justice. A group of determined parishioners from St. Mary of the Angels in Roxbury was responsible for the reopening of the Egleston Square branch of the Boston Public Library. They convinced the Hernandez School to keep its gym open after hours and founded Hands Around Egleston Square in an effort to combat widespread gang violence of the early 90s. "It can't be all about numbers," explains one parishioner.

"This is a strong haven, and it's scary to see that change."

St. Mary of the Angels has not yet been given a closing date, but many other parishes in the city of Boston have already met their fate or are scheduled to in coming weeks. The beginning of the end of the road for these parishes occurred when the *Boston Globe* first reported the extent of the Reverend John J. Geoghan's abuse: January 6, 2002. In January of this year,

severely pressured financially from the resulting lawsuits and a sharp decline in donations, Archbishop O'Malley asked priests from each of the diocese's regions or clusters to make recommendations of parishes to close. On May 25, the Archdiocese of Boston announced its plan to close 65 parishes and merge several others. Of the closing parishes, 12 are in the city of Boston itself. The rest are in the suburbs. Two other parishes in the city are merging. Archbishop Sean O'Malley cited an insufficient number of priests, decreased attendance, and the difficulty of maintaining crumbling church properties.

"I want to assure the people of the archdiocese that the decision to close parishes is in no way connected with the need to finance the legal settlement with the victims of clergy sexual abuse," he stated firmly. Yet the archdiocese lost \$14 million in the fiscal year 2003, and has considered filing for bankruptcy protection for some time. Many parishioners as well as the public at large, however, believe that the cost of the scandal has everything to do with the closings. When asked whether her church, St. William's,

St. Augustine is only one of a number of historic churches that include St. Peter's Lithuanian Church, also in South Boston; St. Mary Star of the Sea in East Boston; Brighton's Our Lady of Presentation; St. Adalbert in Hyde Park; Jamaica Plain's Blessed Sacrament; and Holy Trinity German Church in the South End. These churches, often designed by renowned architects, are filled with breathtaking stained glass and other notable religious art. Big questions remain about the fate of these buildings. They will in most cases be sold and new owners will be left to determine their fates. According to the pastor responsible for St. Augustine, Father Robert Kennedy,

are struggling to come to terms with this historical change in the structure of the church. St. John-St. Hugh on the Dorchester/Roxbury border is one of the few churches that will be merging with another parish (Roxbury's St. Francis de Sales) and reopen as a new, combined parish. Jane and Lisa, two middle-aged women who attend St. John-St. Hugh, are optimistic about the future. They



JANE AND LISA, ST. JOHN-ST. HUGH ROXBURY



AARON SUNSTEIN, I

it is the state of the building and not of the parish itself that is forcing the church to close. The church they are moving to, St. Monica's, is not only a non-descript modern building, but is also the smaller of the parishes. "When you can't maintain beauty and history a lot of things get lost," says Fr. Kennedy.

St. Peter's Lithuanian Church

explain that both parishes were primarily African-American, that parishioners were involved in the decision-making process, and that combined they will only be stronger.

A common thread that has emerged from parishioners is that without greater youth involvement, even the new, combined parishes will not be strong enough to survive a drop-off in religious involvement, not only due to the recent struggles of the archdiocese, but also because of what they see as the rising tide of secularism in society. Lisa says that kids "need to know why they're coming to church." At Saint John-Saint Hugh, attendance is down. Jane remembers when each of the

was closed to pay for the lawsuits, Diana Michta (III), responded without hesitation. "Oh yeah!"

Perhaps Archbishop O'Malley was in his own words "profoundly aware" of the impact church closings would have on Boston's communities, but surely he was not aware that St. Mary of the Angels created a new nationally recognized housing plan, or that the chapel of St. Augustine Church in South Boston (also closing) is on the National Register of Historic Places. Both St. Augustine and St. Mary of the

in South Boston was recently in the news when Archbishop O'Malley left in the middle of the parish's centenary celebration last month, apparently because he was disturbed by parishioners pleading with him to save their church.



FR. RUSSEL BEST OF ST. JOHN-ST. HUGH ROXBURY

Angels serve as focal points of inner-city neighborhoods, poorer neighborhoods that the archbishop promised to spare during the "reconfiguration process."

and suburbs.

St. Peter's and other parishes across the city, both those closing and those expected to welcome new parishioners,

St. Peter's attendants were especially upset by the fact that their church was not acknowledged as serving the Lithuanian community, and was instead grouped in the South Boston cluster. This occurred because the Lithuanian community has spread out. At St. Peter's, most parishioners are not from South Boston. They come from all over the city

three Sunday masses was full of worshippers. Now there is only one, half-filled with members of an older generation.

After Sunday evening youth mass at St. William's in Dorchester, which has now merged with another parish, a group of teenagers munches pizza in the kitchen. They are talking about faith and the future of the church. Barry Tomasini (III) puts it this way: "Look at where we are right now, in a room full of 15, 20 kids...all running around and screaming, screaming about God...screaming great things about God, Christian rock blaring on the radio, so I mean, if we keep this up anything can happen...but if not, it's all gonna go downhill."

With additional reporting by Katie Harrison (III)



BY JULIA ARNOUS, III

CATHOLICISM IN BOSTON

Are these Churches Destined for Condos?

BY YING YING FOK, I, & AARON
SUNSTEIN, I
LAYOUT EDITOR & NEWS EDITOR

Of the churches closing in the city of Boston, some are fine structures noted for their architectural significance.

St. Augustine Church in South Boston was built in 1870, even before the Boston Archdiocese was established. Built for the purpose of serving the growing Irish immigrant community in South Boston, it was designed by architect Patrick Keeley in full Victorian Gothic style and features glorious stained glass windows by Mayer of Munich installed in 1904. Keeley was one of the most prolific 19th century American church architects. He is best known for his Neo-Gothic designs, which include Boston's Cathedral of the Holy Cross and the Jesuit Gesù Church in Montreal. Neo-Gothic buildings are characterized by pointed arches; tall, slender pillars; and large windows, as opposed to Neo-Romanesque buildings, which are often built on a smaller and squatter scale. Gothic revival architecture displays a return to the strict forms of the soaring cathedrals of Europe, while

Neo-Romanesque architecture is above all noted for its inconsistency of form—interior decoration can range from the austere to the gaudy.

A Neo-Romanesque design can be seen in another church also in South Boston, St. Peter Church on Flaherty Way. It was built in 1904 to serve the

large Lithuanian community that existed in that part of the city at the turn of the century. In the church are Lithuanian icons, including a statue of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania.

St. Mary Star of the Sea, a Neo-Romanesque church in East Boston that held its final mass August 29, was designed by Swiss-born Franz Untersee. Untersee also worked on Mission Church in Roxbury and designed what was

the former Boston Latin School Annex. Above the doors are singularly and remarkably detailed limestone carvings. They are juxtaposed by the simple brick materials of the structure, creating an equilibrium among the elements of the exterior. The interior featured many fine wood pieces.

Questions still linger as to the future to these buildings after the parishes are closed. The archdiocese is preparing to market the properties but it will be a long and deliberate process. No property will be put on the market until it has been "declared for profane use and has cleared all the canonical hurdles," says Tom Walsh, who has been chosen to oversee the brokers for property sales. According to the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Pilot*, the church will take into account its social mission, including affordable housing, when conducting sales. The Archdiocese also says that they are not obligated to sell to the highest bidder.

Only time will tell whether the Archdiocese intends to stand by its word.

With additional reporting by Radhika Garland (II) and Katie Harrison (III). All photos by Aaron Sunstein (I) except where noted.



MAYER GLASS AT ST. PETER'S



ST. PETER'S LITHUANIAN, S. BOSTON. BUILT 1899



VAULT OF THE NAVE AT ST. PETER'S



PEDIMENT OF ST. AUGUSTINE



NEO-GOTHIC ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, 1880



NEO-ROMANESQUE ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA, 1920s



DETAILED WORK IN LIMESTONE, ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA

The Archbishop Closed my Church and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt

BY BARRY TOMASINI, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place..." So sang the St. William's choir on August 30th, 2004. It was the 11:30 AM Sunday Mass, the same time that it's always been. There's one difference between this mass and all that had preceded it — this would be the last.

Since we, the parishioners, learned of the "suppression" (to use the Archbishop's word) of our parish last year, Savin Hill in Dorchester has been a community in grieving. Since Dorchester is so large, people often identify themselves by the parish near which they live — even if they are not practicing Catholics. On May 25th, when the letters went out with every parish in the Archdiocese's fate inside, I snuck out of my fifth-period Biology class to use the "bathroom"; more like use my cell phone to call my church — only to get the recorded voice of my former pastor, Fr. Chris Hickey saying something like, "It is with deepest sympathy that I tell you that St. William's is to be closed." I quickly spread the news to my friends at

lunch, and after school a few of my fellow youth group members (including several from BLS) went directly to Church, just to be with each other. The meeting was unplanned, unorganized, and not an eye was dry. We all stayed there until about eight o'clock that night.

It's hard to explain the feelings that parishioners of closed parishes have. The closest emotion that everyone can relate to is the feeling that you get when someone you love dies, but it's even worse than that feeling. I had expected that St. William's would always be there, took it for granted, grew really close to it, and then it was wrenched from me, it seemed as though the Archdiocese was saying, "You shouldn't care where you pray, whom you pray with, or who leads you in your prayer — as long as you pray." I, like many others in my community, have always considered myself to be primarily a parishioner and a Catholic second. Now the Archdiocese is asking us to be Catholics first and being parishioners as a lower priority. That's fine with me, but because of this, it's going to be very hard for me to accept another church as my parish, because I won't feel

at home there. I wouldn't "fall in love" with the parish if now I have the perception that all it really is supposed to be is a building, not a fundamental concept upon which we are supposed to build a community in faith and life.

Many people's faith was shaken by the closing of their parish. For the majority of the people, their faith in GOD remains strong; it is their faith in the system, in the institution that is the Archdiocese of Boston that was shaken on that dreaded day. Many people were upset with the fact that the Archdiocese had created a system for ranking parishes using a numerical value that they called the "Sacramental Index," which can be determined by totaling the number of Baptisms, Funerals, and double the number of weddings in one year. The archdiocese is divided up into "clusters," or small groups of about five parishes, and each cluster is headed by a Vicar. Out of the five parishes in my cluster, St. William's had the highest Sacramental Index number, with a two hundred and two (the rest of the parishes all ranked below 160), yet we were the only parish

in the cluster to lose our building (worse still, we were the only one in Dorchester). People placed a lot of faith in the "system," but it appears that Bishops O'Malley and Lennon disregarded their "system," trading it in for a game of "Survivor," where parishes formed alliances and voted each other off the island by forcing clusters to submit recommendations regarding which parishes in the cluster should be closed. In the end, it seemed as though the Archdiocese chose to sell off more marketable properties while protecting more traditional building styles and congregations. People whose faith is strong are still stunned at the sequence of events and the communities built around these parishes may never be the same.

*"And in the streets: the children screamed,
The lovers cried, and the poets dreamed.*

*But not a word was spoken;
The church bells all were broken.
And the three men I admire most:
The Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost,
They caught the last train for the coast
The day the music died."*

Gospel Choir Attendance Dips to New Low

BY VICTORIA BARTOLOME, I
STAFF WRITER

After a shift in the staff of the music department, there is a noticeable difference in the chorus room after school on Mondays. What used to be a room packed with ninety students from all grades is now a mere thirty. The vivacious singing that would roar out of the music wing and down the steps throughout the first floor can now only be heard within the music wing itself.

With the sudden departure of Mr. Simmons before the start of the year, Mr. Charig, a man whom Mr. Simmons has great faith in carrying on the performance of the choirs and taking them to the next level, was brought in to take his place. Yet so far, Gospel Choir members are unready and unwilling to move on from Mr. Simmons' direction and accept that of Mr. Charig's.

There are clear differences between the two instructors and part of the reason comes from the simple fact that they come from different backgrounds. Mr. Simmons grew up with gospel music. He played the piano for his church's

Gospel Choir down in Georgia, which is the same reason he returned there this year. He brought the essence of gospel music into Boston Latin School—not just gospel singing itself, but the dancing, attitude, and emotion that goes with it. Is his absence the sole reason for the decrease in gospel members?

"I guess it's because it's just not the same as when we had Mr. Simmons. There's not as much excitement," Alyson Putnam (II), a section leader for gospel choir, explained.

Jessica Noseworthy (II), another section leader, noted that a majority of the thirty current members are new. "The first week, some former members came back, but there weren't as many because a lot weren't notified about it. The second week, there were more people, about fifty, but we noticed when we took attendance that a lot of the former members from the previous week didn't come back. And then even less came back this week, so now there's mostly new members in the choir."

This can only mean that many former Gospel Choir members no longer find the two hours of practice appealing

like they used to. But the problem isn't Mr. Charig. Though he has big shoes to fill, he is by no means less qualified. Like Mr. Simmons, he has an amazing ability in music. Since his arrival, he has introduced new techniques to enhance students' singing and emphasized detailed

aspects such as intonation and pronunciation. Around for only over a month, he hasn't had the chance to really build strong relationships with his students yet, but his personality is no different than Mr. Simmons' and he, too, wants his students to truly *enjoy* music. Yet the diminishing participation seems to come from students' strong attachment to Mr. Simmons that makes it hard for them to accept Mr. Charig's new style.

Section leaders are currently working with Mr. Charig to try to liven up Gospel Choir to attract members back. The suggestion of a helper in dance moves is being brought up, and section leaders have decided to take control for the first half of practice to try to simulate the style of Mr. Simmons that made members so enthusiastic. New members are strongly encouraged to join, but the greatest desire is for former members to return. There is still hope that the Gospel Choir will grow closer to last year's numbers, for Mr. Simmons certainly did not intend his leave to cause the deterioration of something he took so much pride in building up.



BY LEAH SKAHEN, I
GOSPEL CHOIR HOPES THAT THERE WON'T BE TOO MANY UNUSED ROBES

The Unknown of the Fine Arts Department

BY JULIA RYAN, IV
STAFF WRITER

Boston Latin School has always carried a reputation as the most academically challenging public school in Boston. The arts programs at Boston Latin however, are constantly overlooked. Things are changing; this year, thanks to the addition of two new art teachers, the Latin School arts programs are looking more promising than ever.

As most students know, visual arts courses at this school include Art AP, as well as art classes for grades seven and eight. But many people do not know of the after school programs that offer opportunities to explore out-of-the-ordinary types of art. One of the art teachers at Boston Latin, Mr. Byron, spends many

of his afternoons running diverse clubs such as the Fashion Club, Interior Design Club, Film Club, and Photography Club. Both the Fashion Club, where students can design and make clothes, and the Interior Design Club, where students can learn how to design and build houses from foam cord are run by Carrie Wu (I) and Bingqing Wang (I). The most exciting one of these clubs is the brand-new Film Club, in which members will be using digital cameras to explore lighting, and filmmaking. Only 12 to 14 people however, will be accepted to participate. Last but not least, is the Photography Club, which had 119 applications this year. It is a very attractive option, especially to people who are interested in the technical aspects of photography.

On another note, there's a buzz

of activity in the music department this year. With the multiple musical groups, it's hard not to find something interesting. From football band, concert choir, to chamber orchestra, there is a great variety of musical opportunities. During my interview with Mr. Slevira, commonly known as "Maestro", I learned about the classical side of the Boston Latin music scene. Students in grade seven are offered a chance to either develop or improve their musical skills by participating in either the Beginning Sixie Orchestra or the Advanced Sixie Orchestra. Then, for the older and more advanced underclassmen, there is the Training Orchestra. Musically talented freshmen, sophomores and juniors have the option of joining the Junior Orchestra. Finally, the Senior Orchestra is the most advanced orchestra, which con-

sists of mostly seniors and an assortment of other musically-inclined students.

For this year's holiday concert, the Junior Orchestra will be playing *A Little Night Music* by Mozart, which may sound deceptively easy, but is actually an extremely difficult piece. They will also be playing pieces from the ballet *The Nutcracker*. In the same program, the Senior Orchestra will be performing a prelude, air, and rigodon by Edvard Greig, the most well known Norwegian composer of the late 19th century. All of these pieces are both different and exciting. The orchestra will be led by Concert Master Yening Qin (II) and Principle Violist Jim Luo (I). As Mr. Slevira says, the Latin School audience can look forward to a "good blend of serious repertoire with fun holiday cheer."

Films to Fall For This...Fall

Each season, Hollywood sends out a fresh batch of films for audiences of all ages to sample, and this fall, while you're busy writing college essays, studying for tests, or cramming for the SATs, there are a few worthy movies you may want to take some time out to enjoy.

Coming out at the end of October, *The House of Wax* stars Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michel Murray (the WB's *One Tree Hill*) and Paris Hilton in the remake of a 1953 horror flick. A group of friends are on their way to a college football game. However, they are pursued by a duo of deadly brothers in a deserted town. While trying to escape, the group of friends discover the gruesome creation of these two brothers: a house full of wax-coated victims who have fallen under the knife of these two nuts.



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Not interested? Perhaps *Ray* is your cup of tea. Opening in theatres on October 29, *Ray* stars Jamie Foxx, Regina King, and Kerry Washington, and is based on the life and times of Charles Ray, the legendary rhythm and blues singer.

This film includes the story of his beginnings as a poor Southern musician and the obstacles which he had to overcome in order to become one of the most famous pianists and rock and roll performers of his time.

Next

month, *The Polar Express*, a classic children's tale, starring Tom Hanks, leads audiences on a journey to the North Pole, as one child who begins to doubt Santa Claus gets a new lesson in faith. November also brings a slew of comedies. *The Sponge-*

bob Squarepants Movie, an animated favorite, complete with the popular TV characters: Sandy Cheeks, Squidward, and Patrick the Starfish will be in theatres on the 15th. Later in November, Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, and Hugh Grant reprise their roles in *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, the sequel to *Bridget Jones's Diary*; they are joined by new faces, Jacinda Barrett and Jim Broadbent. Bridget is now living with beau Mark Darcy but her new job as a reporter for "Sit Up Britain" isn't going according to plans. For the more enthusiastic Latin scholars, the movie *Alexander*, starring Colin Farrell as the young conqueror and Angelina Jolie opens on November 24.

If you liked *Hero*, don't forget to catch the next Zhang Yimou film, enti-

tled *House of Flying Daggers*, another Chinese martial arts film, House opening December 4. Also opening in early December is *Ocean's 12*. The train of children's films continues with Lemony Snicket's



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

A Series of Unfortunate Events on December 17 and finally, an early Christmas present will arrive on December 12 in the form of the Tony award-winning musical-turned-movie *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Whether you're into comedies or dramas, animations or horror, the rest of this calendar year features enough motion pictures

to make you dizzy.

Compiled by Athena Dy (II) and Yucong Ma (II).

Book Review: Pratchett Revives Snail Mail

By DANIELA HUYNH, I
STAFF WRITER

Since the birth of the Internet and the continuous advancement of technology, one often overlooks the simple habitual workings of local post office branches in favor of sending information via email. Indeed, the post office is an underappreciated institution. Society tends to neglect the postal system in the modern day of instant messaging, cell phones, and other various methods of communication. Playing devil's advocate, Terry Pratchett, author of the national bestseller, *Monster Regiment*, and now acclaimed for his most recent novel, *Going Postal*, takes into consideration the many advantages of going postal.

Pratchett is a well-known sensation among authors of children's books. He has written a score of novels, each dealing with witty heroes facing hilariously absurd and delightful adventures that never fail to charm readers.

Pratchett litters *Going Postal* with inventive style and flair, from summarizing chapters with cryptic lines to adding personal and witty footnotes at the bot-

tom of pages, thus creating a story that relentlessly urges the reader on. *Going Postal* is a story about swindling, ancient envelopes, and the second chance of a lifetime for Moist Von Lipwig. Lipwig is an ex-crook, ex-thief, and ex-dead man. Given a new life by the mysterious Lord Vetinari, Lipwig sets out to achieve the impossible: delivering letters that have gradually accumulated for over the last twenty years.

Accompanied by his parole officer, a colossal golem by the name of Pump 19, an aging Junior Postman with a penchant for alchemic medicine and Stanley, a jittery young man obsessed with pins, Lipwig has the daunting task of reviving and refurbishing the derelict Post Office building. Lipwig's situation gets even worse when the mail starts talking to him, reading themselves and demanding that he deliver them because all a letter wants is to be read.

Though slowly, with the delivery of each overdue letter, Lipwig brings hope to the faithless, winning the hearts of the people in Ankh-Morpork and restoring their buried dreams with every word of each letter sent. Pratchett creates a de-

ceptive story full of humor and fun, all the while containing a deeper message. Through the wild adventures and witty remarks, Pratchett posts the truth that everyone needs hope and something to believe in. Pratchett points to Lipwig, one of the most notorious criminals ever, as that source of hope. Even more than that, Lipwig begins to hope. He just might be able to turn his life around, run a Post Office, and get the girl, if, for the first time in his entire hapless life, he fights for them.

Lipwig will battle a banshee, overcome a tyrant, and defeat a blood-thirsty pirate to deliver age old pieces of hope.



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Going Postal is a tale full of twists and turns divulged from the warped mind of Terry Pratchett. What makes Pratchett unique in his storytelling is his approach: he takes the strangest characters and somehow molds everything so that it all works perfectly. With an honest eye for all the foibles of being human, Pratchett spins a comical story that has incredible depth. There's a meaning behind the words, the actions, and just about everything. It's so humorously and cleverly written that every detail sticks in one's mind like gum on shoe. It's a book that Pratchett wrote for everyone to read and to love because one simply can't get tired of *Going Postal*.

Art Spiegelman Speaks at Brattle Theater

By ERIN SILVA, I
STAFF WRITER

"My wife, my daughter and I are rushing from the bomb sight. We hear a roar, like a waterfall, and look back. The air smells of death...that's my cue." Art Spiegelman lights up a cigarette as peals of uncertain laughter break through the silence in Harvard Square's Brattle Theater. On September 20, Art Spiegelman made an appearance at the theater to read excerpts from his new book, *In the Shadow of No Towers*. Sponsored by the Harvard Bookstore, the event was a great opportunity for fans of Spiegelman to hear how he and his family coped with the attacks on America on September 11.

Spiegelman has much experience as

an author and artist. He worked on many different publications, including "Real Pulp" and "Douglas Comics." He is best known, however, for his Holocaust narratives *Maus* and *Maus II*, depicting Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Spiegelman also designed the September 24, 2001 cover of the *New Yorker*, commemorating the lives lost on 9/11. The black towers on a black background were almost indistinguishable, a touching and unique tribute to those who lost their lives. Spiegelman's wife Françoise Mouly is the cover editor for the *New York Times*, and was told the day of the attacks that a new magazine and cover needed to be put together. Spiegelman later used a similar design for the cover of *In the Shadow of No Towers*.

At his reading, Spiegelman went through his new book and highlighted the most significant memories he had from that terrifying September morning, now three years ago. Spiegelman noted how just before the North Tower fell, "time was stopped." As a resident of downtown Manhattan, he was greatly affected by the attacks. His daughter, now a senior, attends Stuyvesant High School, located just beneath the towers. That morning Spiegelman and his wife frantically searched for their daughter and returned home quickly to escape the surreal horror only a mile from their home. One image Spiegelman focused on was the skeletal remains of the towers after they had been consumed by the fire. He seemed transfixed by the structure's "glowing bones."

Spiegelman felt emptiness after the attacks, which he found difficult to fill. He told the audience how he tried everything from listening to music to reading poetry to feel normal about society again. The only comfort he found was in early comic strips with titles such as "Foxy Grandpa" and "Hogan's Alley." He even incorporated the characters from these comic strips into his book, as they related to his experience in the aftermath of the attacks.

A revolutionary artist and author, Spiegelman changed the face of comics, and remains a pillar in the graphic novel genre. In *In the Shadow of No Towers* describes how a true New Yorker feels when "time stands still in the moment of trauma."

Joe Gels: Creature of the Black Box

Arts Spotlight
by James BARNED-SMITH, II



BY BURT CARTER (I)

You won't find him on the football field, though he will occasionally delight the crowd with his Ultimate Frisbee antics. You won't find him running for Class President. You won't find him hanging out with the Mock Trial team, and you certainly won't ever find him without some type of ska CD on him.

"Oh, I'm definitely an art person," says Joe Gels (I), who practically lives in the Black Box Theatre. "It's a huge part of my life."

At six-feet-two, with his occasional goatee and slightly bemused smile, Joe resembles an almost comically rail-thin figure to such a degree that he has at times been accused of suffering from Skinny White Boy Syndrome. He wears checkered berets and Drama Guild T-shirts and never goes anywhere without a CD player. A singer, improviser, actor, director and playwright, Joe is the quintessential artsy kid who does everything.

Joe first got into the arts at Boston Latin School when he joined the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe in his sixth year, of which he is now a co-captain. "I started doing improv because I didn't get into the plays and it didn't have an audition process," Joe says. "I stayed 'cause it was fun." Improv, he says, has given him some of his most rewarding artistic moments, and he pinpoints the 7 p.m. improv show *A Day in the Life* as the pinnacle of his career so far. "We had been working all year to get better and better, and then it all paid off in an awesome show," he says of that moment.

One thing, as it has a habit of do-

ing, led to another, and by the end of his freshman year Joe had starred in the role of Seymour in the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* and joined Concert Choir, in which he is now heavily involved.

Joe is the bass section leader, and says, "Oddly, I currently seem to be the tenor section leader." He laughs as he describes his label of 'tenorsexual.' "It's 'cause I can sing all the tenor parts even though I'm a bass," he explains.

Ms. Fernandes was the reason he got into music. According to Joe, at the end of his sixth year she asked him if he wanted to be in the Eighth Grade Chorus the following year. Since the day he agreed, Joe has not looked back. "I do it 'cause I find it fun. Ain't nothing else to it," he says.

An aspiring playwright, Joe has already penned one play, entitled *Motion, Misdirection, and the Meaning of Life*, which is "is kinda existential with a bit of British comedy flair." Though he likes to write, Joe claims that general laziness has prevented him from getting anything published in *The Register*, or anywhere else for that matter. However,

he is submitting *Meaning of Life* to the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Playwriting Competition.

Joe's interest in writing burst upon him when he became bored in Physics, and began scribbling the beginnings of *The Epic Tale of Bob the Fuzzy Bunny*, a satire covering subjects from the impossibility of finding things on maps to quantum physics. After Bob, Joe has "just kept writing weird stuff like that," and it has led him to writing plays. "It's fun," he says. "[Writing] is a good medium for paralleling life."

It is, however, Joe's dramatic pursuits that are most well known, and rightly so. In addition to acting in *Little Shop of Horrors*, he assistant directed *The Dining Room* and was a member of the run crew for *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*. Now, he is directing the fall play for the BLS Drama Club, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. "Basically, Picasso and Einstein meet in a bar with a guest appearance by Elvis," Joe says of Picasso, grinning at his choice. "Directing so far has been a total blast. And remember, guys - be excellent to each other."

A & E

Exhibit Gives New Meaning to Art History

BY SILVANA VIVAS, V
STAFF WRITER

Do you ever get tired of how things are today? Does everything seem like it has a purpose, but no longer gives off a feeling of elegance or sophistication? Is it like nothing was given enough thought to make it unique or, at least satisfactory to look at? How do you escape it all? By going to a place where examples of glamour and accommodation are rolled into a mere couple of rooms, perhaps?

The Art Deco exhibition in the Gund Gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts takes you out of today. With its varied objects from the Art Deco period (1910-1939), it shows everyone an era where elegant lifestyle along with new technology was key.

Art Deco began in France, taking its name from the government-sponsored Exposition International des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes (International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts) held in Paris in 1925. It used artistic tradition as well as inspiration from the modern world and spread across

the world during the 1920s and 1930s.

Walking in, the first thing you see in the darkly-painted room is a beautiful sculpture of 1930s cabaret dancers by



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Demetre Chiparus. As you walk a bit further, you come face to face with a detailed description of Art Deco that extends from

the ceiling to the floor. It is adorned on top with an intricate frieze band that was originally made for an elevator cage. By this point, you feel like you've been cut off from the present and traveled back in time. Walking through the gallery, you come across African-influenced furniture and sculptures, as well as Egyptian-inspired clothing and jewelry, which was very popular at that time. Following these items is the Avant-garde art displayed by Czechoslovakian Cubism. Next comes the sets and costumes of Impresario Serge Diaghilev's ballet company *Ballet Russes*. Displayed is a black and white costume for a mourner in *The Song of a Nightingale*.

In the next room, directly opposite the entrance, is a black-and-white floor-to-ceiling mural of the 1925 exhibition. Works in this section were on display at the Paris exhibition. In here you can find furniture from a pavilion conceived by furniture maker and designer Jacques-Emio Ruhlmann. Also at the end of the room is a beautiful evening gown designed by Jeanne Paquin, and made of embroidered and beaded silk. It has a Chinese motif to it, complete with a dragon and gold

outlined clouds at the hem.

Passing into the next room, you will encounter an uncommon canoe-inspired day bed surrounded by a red and black lacquered wooden screen and two brass vases on each side. On your left are abstract geometric decorations, and further down are cocktail accessories such as cigarette cases, vanity cases and wine glasses. Also lined against the far wall are five extravagant evening gowns ranging from light pastel colors to black.

In the last section you can see how artists and designers turned to the city for inspiration in what is called *Manhattan Modern*. Following this theme, sophisticated travel posters and a model of Rockefeller Center are just a few of the things that end the exhibit.

As one of the young women enjoying the exhibit said, "It was good overall. The paint on the walls complement the paintings." So go take a look at one of the classiest eras of all time. It runs until January 9, 2005.

The next exhibit will be Speed, Style, and Beauty: Cars from the Ralph Lauren Collection. It starts on March 6, 2005.

Drama Raises the Bar

BY ERIN SILVA, I
STAFF WRITER

Just when you thought it was a good time to hide your true love for thespians, the Boston Latin School Drama Club has done it again. Luckily for us, there are some exciting productions lined up for the upcoming season. For those who don't know much about the Drama Club, it is one of the most talented and motivated clubs we have at the school. Entirely student-run, this year, the Drama Club will be headed by Dave Toro (I), Leah Skahen (I), Liz Good (I) and Liz Finlayson (II), as producers. Liz Timmerman (II) will be the technical manager. The club's new advisor, Ms. Crewdson, will work with the producers throughout the year to maintain a student-based administration. The Drama Club is especially unique because it has no weekly meetings, unlike other clubs. Instead, students who wish to participate are asked to work on a production at some point in the year.

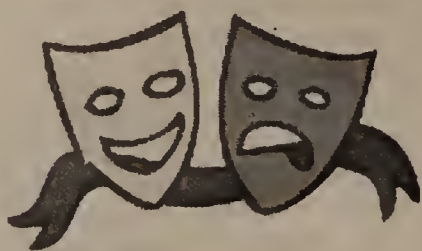
For the past two years, the Drama Club has been to state finals in the Massachusetts High School Drama Festival, an honor, of which only 15 schools in the Commonwealth can boast. Before 2002, Boston Latin had never made it to the finals, so this year's upperclassmen have a legacy to defend. The play for the Guild, a name commonly used for the festival, is performed in late winter and early spring for competitions, as well as at Boston Latin in the Blackbox Theatre.

This fall, the Drama Club has two productions scheduled. The first is the only faculty-run production, *Peter Pan*.

This "modern, non-musical version of the classic story" will be directed by Ms. Crewdson for underclassmen. Also, Joe Gels(I) will be directing *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, a comedy written by Steve Martin. The Guild play, directed by Leah Skahen (I), can also be seen later this winter, with open auditions in December. It's quite possible a spring play will also be in production.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile is currently in production and scheduled to be performed on December 3, 4 and 5. The play is a comedy in which Picasso and Einstein meet in a bar. Director Joe Gels is enthusiastic about the talented cast, who are sure to put on a hilarious show. It includes several new faces, and many returning dramatists. You may recognize James Mealey (II) from last year's production of *The Laramie Project*, who stars as Picasso this year, as well as Dave Toro (I), Claire Tecce (II), Meghan Walsh (III), Roisin Fole (IV), other familiar faces from past Latin School productions. Look for new faces, lots of energy, and excellent productions this season from the talented Boston Latin Drama Club.

With reporting by Leah Skahen (I)



Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter ...and Spring

Oh Young-Soo, Kim Ki-Duk, Kim Young-Min,
Seo Jae-Kyung, Kim Jong-Ho, Ha Yeo-Jin

This Korean movie requires neither subtitles nor knowledge of the language to understand, since none of the characters really open their mouths to speak. With the passing of seasons, a cute little monk learns very important life lessons: kids should never tie animals to a rock, teenagers should never give in to their lust on a boat, and of course, people should never kill their spouses. The most interesting thing? Clearly the rooms and gate have no walls, and yet the monk, when trying to sneak out without waking up his master, opens a creaky door instead of walking through silent air.

The United States of Leland

Don Cheadle, Ryan Gosling, Chris Klein, Jena Malone, Kevin Spacey

When sent to juvenile hall, a teenage accused of killing a mentally-ill kid catches the attention of a prison teacher, who smells an interesting topic for his book. The teacher finds out that the accused is of an intricate character and further probes into the case. A melodramatic film with two distinct messages: one, how sad the world really is, and two, why people cannot account for their actions of hypocrisy even as they themselves condemn them. To err is to be human, and we are just humans. Not a good enough reason.

Spinning Boris

Jeff Goldblum, Anthony LaPaglia, Liev Schreiber,
Svetlana Efremova, Shauna MacDonald, Zoltan Buda

This movie is based on a true story. Russians hire three American campaign advisors, preferably ones who don't speak Russian, to help them win the first post-Cold War democratic election. When depressed and in need of a boost in your self-esteem, watch how the Russians are made fun of and how we, Americans, are superior to them. The corruptness of the election, the very inconspicuous entrance secured by bodyguards with heavy loaded guns, the house arrest the advisors find themselves in... all of this is part of the Russian campaign, is it not? This is another political satire.



Compiled By Vy Nguyen (IV) and
Sou Lor (IV).

BLS Idol Worthy of Worship

» From BLS GOES IDOL, page 9

each other through another elimination round, where Latin School students will vote for their favorites.

Finally, the six remaining contestants compete and one final "Idol" emerges from the mass of aspiring singers. As the contestants from all classes were brought in one by one, Wolfpack Productions at the BLSTV Studio filmed each audition for future broadcasts.

In all, around 25 students, the majority of them sixie females, stepped up in front of the microphone. There were only two male participants. Between contestants, as the Boston Latin tech crew fiddled with headsets and cameras, as judges Mr. Harper of the Music Department, Mr. Charig the Chorus Director and Dr. Carroll the Elder discussed how each had done. Most contestants' auditions of choice included favorite solos by famous singers such as Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey. Several brave

7th-graders opted for the national anthem, while pop pieces and even Broadway musicals were heard inside the studio. For most contestants, the competition-filled atmosphere induced nervousness as well as some anxiety. Patricia Hao (I) professed worries of a sore throat and about her voice cracking. But for most, standing in front of the microphone was the most nerve-wracking part. Some almost ended up in tears, but all gave remarkable performances. As Dominic ceded, "There was a lot of tal-

ent this first round. It'll make it harder to eliminate people." Mr. Harper was very appreciative of Dominic's initiative to bring Idol to the Latin School, and said it was "a great opportunity to showcase talent" for students who were not part of the school's music programs.

While the first round is over, the second round of eliminations has begun, and one student is on his or her way to becoming a true idol. Stay tuned to BLSTV (Channel 27) to vote for your favorites.

SPORTS

Latin Football In Top Form

By KATHERINE RAMEY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Latin School football team has been a dedicated, talented group of players for several years now. This fall, they have finally achieved the success that they deserve, thanks to excellent teamwork, good coaching and a foundation of individually strong players.

They started off the season on the right foot, defeating North Quincy 21-6; however, this was just the beginning. The next week they easily shut out Matignon at White Stadium, with a final score of 47-0. Critics such as the *Boston Globe* assumed that the winning streak would stop as the team prepared to face "tougher" teams such as Bedford. Proving everyone wrong, the Wolfpack beat Bedford with an impressive offensive attack against a defense which was "supposedly" hard to beat. The team was also able to keep the ball out of the hands of the Bedford offense, allowing them to score only two touchdowns and end the game with a score of 28-14. The team faced another serious challenge in their game against Wayland. Wayland, was ranked 24 in the state before the Wolfpack blemished their record. At the end of the first half, Wayland's offense was driving, with several completed passes resulting in first downs. With Latin School's defense tiring, it seemed as though Wayland would easily score until safety Matt Farley (I) intercepted the ball and returned it 85 yards to set up a touchdown by Rashaad Bryant (I). This gave Latin a dominating 20-6 lead at halftime. During the rest of the game, Andrew Laroque (I) intercepted the ball twice, and receiver Sean O'Brien caught a 45-yard pass from quarterback Mike Mitchell (I) to secure another explosive offensive drive by Latin, finishing the game with an impressive score of 26-6.



BY KATHERINE RAMEY (I)

The team has been performing so well this year thanks in part to a core group of talented seniors. Co-captain Rashaad Bryant, who was sidelined last season due to a leg injury, is back and leading the state in scoring with 11 touchdowns, thanks to help from a primarily new but solid offensive line. Co-captain Andrew Laroque, with three interceptions, comments on the team's abilities, "As a team we have picked each other up on both sides of the ball, and our offense and defense has improved every game. We've averaged 30 points per game, and

we have given up an average of 7 points the first four games." Quarterback Mike Mitchell, who is also having a very strong year, adds, "I expect a lot from the team this year. With some key positions filled by seniors, plenty of senior leadership, and some upcoming junior stars, we should make a racket in the DCL this year." Newcomers such as receiver Sean O'Brien (I) and Sean Martin (I) have both had successful seasons so far. Martin and Nathan Allukian (I) are key positions in the strong defensive line. Josh Speicher (I) and Mike Lipuma (I) are both returning

seniors who make an important addition to the team's defense, and Nathan Allukian also delivers a strong kicking game. Coach John McDonough emphasizes the importance of senior strength. "The expectations are high. The team is a senior ball club, with 19 seniors. They are expected to do well. They are off to a good start and they should keep up the good work." The only dark spot of this season was a tough loss to Newton south 28-29. Overall, with a 4-1 record, the team has shown it is competitive in a tough Dual County League division.

Remaining Fall Schedule

Boys' Soccer

WED 10/20 @WAYLAND 4:00
FRI 10/22 @CONCORD CARLISLE 4:00
WED 10/27 @BEDFORD 4:00
FRI 10/29 @ACTON BOXBORO 4:00

Varsity Football

FRI 10/22 @ACTON BOXBORO 7:00
SAT 10/30 @LINCOLN SUDBURY 1:30
FRI 11/5 @CATHOLIC MEMORIAL TBA
FRI 11/12 @CONCORD CARLISLE 7:00
THU 11/25 BOSTON ENGLISH 10:00 @ HARVARD

JV Football

MON 10/18 @WESTFORD 4:00
MON 10/25 @ACTON BOXBORO 4:00
MON 11/1 LS@WAYLAND 3:45
MON 11/8 @CM 4:00
MON 11/15 @CONCORD 4:00

Girls Volleyball

MON 10/18 MARLBORO 4:00
WED 10/20 LINCOLN SUDBURY 4:00
FRI 10/22 @CONCORD CARLISLE 4:00
TUE 10/26 LATIN ACADEMY 4:00
WED 10/27 WAYLAND 4:00
FRI 10/29 @ACTON/BOXBORO 4:00
MON 11/1 CARDINAL SPELLMAN 4:00

Girls Soccer

MON 10/18 LINCOLN SUDBURY 4:00
WED 10/20 @WAYLAND 4:00
FRI 10/22 CONCORD CARLISLE 4:00
WED 10/27 @BEDFORD 4:00
THU 10/28 @URSULINE JV HOME 4:00
FRI 10/29 ACTON BOXBOROUGH 4:00

Boys' Soccer Wins 6-2 Against BLA

By RON BOWER, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Another year and another season expected to chalk up winless, just like the previous years. This year is different though. The new coach Justin Swain has taken the Wolfpack to its first victory in several years, and with captains Peter Bass (I), Simon Fischer (I) and Louis Frank (I), the Pack looks to begin rebuilding for the future.

The highlight reel thus far has been Rafael Santos (IV), who led the team by scoring five goals and giving five assists. Due to Santos' hat trick,

Boston Latin School defeated Latin Academy 6-2. "The team looks to be getting better," says Santos, "but people need to understand that this is an experimental season. There is a new coach, along with new players, and we expect great things. We are easily doing better than we have before, but we still have a ton to work on before we can break out as a league threat."

According to most of the team, the defense, led by captain Peter Bass with captain Simon Fischer in goal, is their primary weapon. The Wolfpack do their best to stop all the shots, and with the goal differential decreasing

this year, it looks as though they are doing a good job at it.

But unfortunately, defense is also their only weapon. Boys' soccer is a work in progress and they are beginning to improve. Obviously, their main problem is offensive production. If the Wolfpack begin to put the ball in the net a little more often, they might be able to make their record respectable compared to past years. The turnovers have also been killing the team. If the underlying stats weren't as bad, their record would be pushing the .500 mark.

As a youthful group losing only four seniors this year, there is already

a lot of experience at the Varsity level. With Varsity prospects like Michael Marra (V) and Peter Rice (IV), the Wolfpack could be on their way. In addition, Sean Deery (V), Robert Keough (III) and Matthew Skillin (II) are looking to play Varsity next season.

The future looks very bright for the Wolfpack. They have a new coach and players with a love for the game. A few more pieces added to the puzzle are all this team needs to become a success. This year will be remembered as the beginning of great things for the Boston Latin boys' soccer team.

SPORTS

Goals Of Their Own

Sports Spotlight

Mike Mitchell



BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

BY SAM AKIBA, I
SPORTS EDITOR

As I tried to get Mike Mitchell to sit still for two seconds and let me question him, he told me he had to go for a run and do some pushups. That's Mike. He is always doing something or going somewhere. On top of that, he constantly works out at the YMCA in West Roxbury; he has also been trying extra hard to get in shape ever since it became a goal of his to go to West Point Academy.

In most grades there is always one kid whom you know, whether or not he is your friend. In the Class of 2005 that person is probably Mike Mitchell. Any seniors who have never seen or heard Mike have done a good job at keeping to themselves. Mike is that kid in your class who always has something to say, or always tries to make his teachers and fellow students laugh. If Mike is in the room, you know he is there. He has a lot of enthusiasm, to say the least. Kat Remey (I) describes Mike as someone who is popular, yet does a good job at being supportive to all his friends. He has a different handshake for almost everyone he knows. There are a handful of other people who could write a spotlight on him, because so many people know who he is. All the energy he has translates into a very dedicated athlete.

Mike is a three-sport Varsity athlete. He is the starting quarterback of the football team, a point guard for the basketball team, and an infielder for the baseball team, but he says that his favorite sport to play is football. In every sport he plays, he brings a certain intensity. At the quarterback position, which is the assumed leadership role on the field, Mike has been solid. He gets the job done, and he rarely makes a big mistake (only throwing one pick this season). He is smart and efficient as the quarterback. He knows what is expected of him, and often has words of encouragement for his fellow players and respect for his coaches. So far this year, he has helped the football team to an impressive 4-1 start.

Most people who know him will admit it is hard to keep a straight face when he is around. When he steps on the playing field however, he takes it very seriously, and is very focused. On every team, he is a voice in the locker room and on the field. He said that he feels it is important to him to be a leader, and create good team chemistry.

Mike is also involved in other activities outside of school. He plays on West Roxbury's Legion Baseball, which did well this past season, missing the playoffs by one game in a tough league. With all the time he spends training, practicing and lifting he doesn't have much free time. Yet on Sundays, Mike works as a fourth grade teacher for CCD at his church.

Mike's life basically revolves around sports. He has been a part of competitive organized sports since he played Parkway basketball in the fifth grade. His dedication to athletics has paid off. He has definitely earned the respect of his teammates. Marc Tangvik (I) who plays with Mike on the Latin basketball team says Mike is the most hard-working, intense athlete in the school. In every sport he plays, he's the one who gets everyone amped and ready to play.

There is no really understanding Mike. He is loud, energetic, a little wild, but he is also amiable, entertaining and fun to be around. You really can't get a sense of what he is like by reading about him. For those people who don't know him, keep your ears and eyes open when you're in the hallway, and when you see or hear him, you'll know its Mike.

BY CATHERINE FOLEY, I
STAFF WRITER

After saying goodbye to the seniors from last year, these Boston Latin School girls put their soccer skills into motion and picked up the pace. During the summer, they reunited at the Millennium Field in West Roxbury for the weekly captain's practices and headed into the 2004-2005 season with hopes and goals; unfortunately, they still have a lot of work to do.

Led by Coach Charlie Kelly, these girls remain very dedicated, despite their extremely hard schedule in the Dual County League. They are faced with soccer powerhouses such as Lincoln Sudbury, Concord Carlisle, Acton Boxborough, and Bedford. Lincoln Sudbury, which was the league champion, defeated the Wolfpack

in a 7-0 game. But the girls hold their own, even if their record does not reflect their hard work.

The senior class brings years of experience and support to the field. Caitlin Glynn (I) and Shantale Harb (I) have played for the past four years while Maria Farias (I) has played for the past three years. However, the team won't be left empty handed when these members leave. Skilled players are expected to move up from the freshman class. Dominique Hall (IV) will help out the offense while Anna Smith (IV) will help protect the net on defense.

The captains, Caitlin Glynn, Katie Stuart-Shor (II), and Michela Desantis (II), provide superb leadership in all types of situations, even despite trailing behind in a game. Stuart-Shor plays solid defense with Anna Smith and Ali Gittens (IV) as

stoppers. Shantale Harb contributes her strength by defending the net, with the help of Maria Farias as sweeper. Positioned at midfield, Desantis and Glynn are satisfactory two-way players.

Although their current record is 1-8-0, they went into this season with the goal of having a better record than last season, which was 2-15-3. The girls' major weakness is their inability to put the finishing touches on offensive drives. Most of their games have been pretty well matched. In the game against Weston, Latin was able to fend them off until Weston scored their only goal in the last ten minutes.

These girls put in hours and hard work after school. They carry their heads high and enter every game optimistically, saying, "Even though we might not win, we just try to have fun."

Running With a Purpose

BY MADELINE MYLETT, I &
ALEXANDRA DEL SOLAR, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

At the end of a typical Boston Latin School day, most of us head home to sit on the couch, take a nap or eat. The thought of running a few miles may even make some of us sick. But imagine running six to eight miles, including hills, each and every single day.

This is the job of the Boston Latin cross-country team. "We run in all weather, no matter how cold, hot, wet, windy...we always get out there," says Liz Good (I). "While other teams are home, safe in their beds from the elements, we're running." Practices for the team are every day, and include meets on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The team says that they're not as competitive as some others here at Latin. "There isn't an emphasis on winning; there is just an emphasis on improving yourself," says Brittany Canniff, one of the senior runners.

Despite a record of only two wins last season, the group has a positive outlook this year. This season's cross-country team is a combination of veteran runners and new blood, which results in a "very positive" and "high spirited team." They are led by Coach Meagher, their extremely sarcastic and devoted coach, as well as by a slew of experienced and talented seniors.

Unfortunately, next year the cross-country team will lose this large amount

of veterans. Along with Brittany Canniff and Elizabeth Good, the squad will suffer the loss of the running talents of seniors Sarah Brown, Katie Balaconis, Emily Foley, Martha O'Connell, and Felicia Waldron. But don't worry—there is some young talent on the team. Freshman Madison Gilmore and sophomore Caroline O'Laughlin show serious commitment and drive for the future. Juniors such as Cassie Kull and Cecilia Wong will be strong leaders for the team next year.



BY JAMES MEALEY, II

And importantly, Meghan O'Donnell (II) brings an essential amount of team spirit to the group, starting off each meet and bringing the team together with her infamous "Kung Fu Fighting" song and dance routine.

The boys' team also shows improvement. The popularity of this sector of the team has grown incredibly over the past few years. Abenet Gebremichael (II) and Robert Deegan (II) are standout runners and show promise as seniors next year. And there are even returning vets as

young as freshmen, such as Mike Shwartz and Sam Strassman.

This team is very supportive of one another. "We are a tight knit group," says senior Sarah Brown, "We're always cheering for one another during meets and always laughing during practices." They all agree they have a "great coach," with even "cooler shades," in reference to Meagher's sunglasses. This sense of joking that the group shares shows how close and loyal they are, not only to one another, but to the sport.

It's a chilly Wednesday afternoon and sure enough, the team's ready for a meet. They gather together at the track at Newton South High School, where the Lions are preparing for their 100th win in a certain amount of years. This doesn't bring down the spirit of the BLS runners, however. The Newton South coach walks by and Brittany exclaims: "Wow, are you pregnant?" to which the well-known woman replies "Yes, we're actually expecting twins."

"Awww," responds the group of girls, lying on the grass, stretching. "And when will they start running?" asks Liz Good. At this, the Newton South coach replies: "Well, they're probably going to learn to stand first." This all takes place while the boys are blasting John Mayer in the background and warming up for their runs. This diverse group of kids, although of different ages and different levels of experience, all seem to bond and joke over one thing they truly enjoy—running.

Boys Golf Hitting The Links

BY JIM LI, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every Monday through Thursday, a troop of 16 Boston Latin School athletes grab their clubs and golf balls, and tee off at Franklin Park. There is an welcoming atmosphere, as the players hang out and joke with one another while working to improve their game.

The golf team is not the best in the school, and, with a disappointing 0-11 record so far this season, most would agree. Their last victory came last season against Weston. This year, the team has not been able to find their stroke. The team competes against other schools twice a week. One wins by getting the lowest score in professional golf, but the scoring system is a bit different in Dual

County League. School teams play on a 9-hole course, trying to earn as many points as possible. Bogeys get one point, par shots receive two, and a birdie gives the player four. The winning school is determined by the accumulated points of all the players.

Despite a discouraging record, the team has high hopes as the 15-game season winds down. The captains, Paul Hynes (I) and John Bruno (I), are determined to lead the team to its first victory of the season. This goal is not unrealistic, given the fact that many of the losses this year have come in close contests, decided by small margins of only five to eight points (three to five strokes). Other veterans, seniors Mike Keegan and Nate Leverone and juniors Matt Stone and Pat Poulin, look to continue their point

contribution to the team. On average, the team gets about 70 points per match. It is a good score, but not good enough to beat their tough opponents, who usually score in the high-70s and the low-80s. Just an improvement of a few points could earn Latin School a tally in the win column.

Win or lose, every member on the golf team has fun, whether they are competing in matches against other schools or just simply enjoying the challenge. The atmosphere of the team certainly does not reflect any signs of defeat. Hopefully, they will end this season on a high note by getting some victories, but until then, the lack of success takes nothing away from the tremendous efforts and zeal displayed by the players throughout the waning season.

SPORTS

BLS Faculty Feud

BY SAM AKIBA, I &
THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
SPORTS EDITOR & ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Some of you might have noticed that on Thursday, October 14, throughout school this sign (image included) was posted in various places throughout the building. Mr. Harper is the token Yankees fan, and with these postings the instigators summed up what most Boston Latin Red Sox fans think. Seeing this, Mr. Harper asked me if I would sit and talk with him, so that he could respond to these attacks.

Sam: Mr. Harper, what was your initial reaction to these signs?

Mr. Harper: Let me just say I am distressed by the reaction I am receiving from the BLS community, because I love the Yankees. At times it is very hard but someone must do it (hard? being a Yankee fan is an easy and mindless task). Everyone must bear his own cross, and evidently this is mine.

Sam: Do you know who did this?

Mr. Harper: It is alleged that Mr. Montague and Mr. Haberstroh are the perpetrators (actually saviors who speak the minds of BLS students).

Sam: Is it you or the students who stir up these debates of Red Sox and Yankees?

Mr. Harper: I believe it is the students who cause the uproar. I am merely pointing out who is the "best team" (no pointing out necessary, we already know the Red Sox are better)

Sam: Do you like it when we whine?

Mr. Harper: I understand why you whine. It's a typical Boston reaction, since you don't know what winning is like (we know what being good loyal fans who don't support a team built on Steinbrenner's wallet is like).

Sam: Is it the fans or the Red Sox that you don't like?

Mr. Harper: I respect the Red Sox (I don't respect the Yankees), it's the fans I have trouble with.

Sam: Have you ever been to Fenway Park, and worn your Yankees apparel?

Mr. Harper: I have been to Fenway many times, I have never worn my Yankees stuff. I value my life (that's right,

don't boast your Yankee pride here if you can't face the Fenway faithful).

Sam:

Anything else to add?

Mr.

Harper: I would hope to convert some of you fans, and

make you realize

who is number one (I don't know anyone who wants to "convert" to evil). I would also like to thank the *Argo* for letting me voice my opinion. You think this is going to fuel the fire?

Mr. Harper has spoken. Most of you have heard some of this nonsense when Mr. Harper lurks through the cafeteria during lunch. We know where he stands, we know that he loves to taunt us and try to instill his immoral Yankee reasoning. That is why it is always good to have the Administration's support. Mr. Montague and Mr. Haberstroh came forth and spoke the truth in an interview with Tom Ahmadifar (II):

Tom: What were your reasons for putting up the anti-Mr. Harper signs?

Mr. Montague: My intentions were to try to minimize the number of boastful comments about a baseball game last evening (Wednesday October 13, 2004... Game 2).

Tom: Do you expect a retaliation by Mr. Harper?

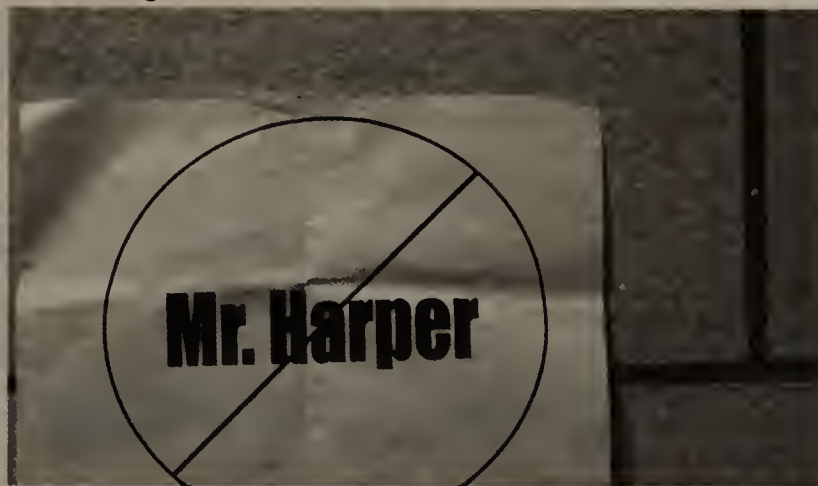
Mr. Montague: I fully expect a retaliation. He's already threatened it. He will find something creative and appropriate.

Tom: Why Mr. Harper and not Mr. Pitts?

Mr. Montague: Mr. Harper has a habit of circulating around certain tables during first lunch, so we targeted the tables we would expect him at. Mr. Pitts wasn't at first lunch being obnoxious.

Tom: Was Mr. Haberstroh in on the plot?

Mr. Montague: Oh yes, we planned it together.



BY MICHELLE YAN (V)

(Mr. Haberstroh walks in)

Mr. Haberstroh: Mr. Montague and I work off of each other.

Tom: Mr. Haberstroh, aren't you a Yankees fan?

Mr. Haberstroh: No no no, I am a Red Sox fan from the toes on my feet to the hair on my head.

Tom: Then why have I seen you wearing a Yankees hat?

Mr. Haberstroh: That was because I lost a bet to Mr. Harper. It is a constant battle that has been going on for 10-15 years between us. He is also a large Giants fan and we went to the Patriots-Giants game last year at Foxboro stadium. We are going to the game tomorrow night together (Game 3, Friday, October 15, 2004) But I told him that he couldn't wear any Yankees gear. The thing about Mr. Harper and not Mr. Pitts is he is a born Yankees fan. He probably wears Yankee underwear.

Tom: Is this your way of reversing the curse?

Mr. Haberstroh: Storrow Drive is taking care of that.

Tom: Would we get school off if the Red Sox won the World Series?

Mr. Montague: We should absolutely get a day off from school.

Mr. Haberstroh: It would be up to the mayor and he would definitely close school, although they didn't close school the last time the Red Sox played the Cardinals in the World Series.

No one is going to change Mr. Harper's mind. He will always advocate the Evil Empire. So, let him believe in his anti-Boston ideas. We have the Administration on our side, and all he has is: himself.

Sports Spotlight

Maria Farias



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BY ALEXANDRA DEL SOLAR, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"M-bomb!" I shriek as I run down the hall and into the arms of my old pal. Maria has been one of my best friends since eighth grade, when Del Solar and Farias came sequentially in the alphabetical seating chart for Mr. Aversa's English class.

When Courtney asked me if I could write a sports spotlight on Maria I was pumped. But then I realized I don't really know her as an athlete. I know that she played Varsity Soccer and rows Varsity for Latin's crew team, but that's about it.

So I put on my reporter hat and picked up my cell phone.

"Hey Al!" exclaims Maria in her usual cheery voice.

"Lady!! Argh, your spotlight is killing me! Tell me about yourself. Sports? Hopes, dreams, aspirations? Soccer? Crew?"

Giggles from the other end of the line. "What do you need to know? I play sweeper for socc—"

"NO!! Don't tell me your positions or any of that nonsense. Why do you play soccer, why do you row crew? What draws you to those sports?"

The passion that emerges in Maria's voice as she talks about her teams is a quality rarely found in high school athletes. She finds a role model in the her crew coach Gillian Curran, who exemplifies qualities that many younger team members look for in Maria. "Maria is an extremely hard worker, despite her mental lapses. Her hard work is a great example to younger members because she is one of only two seniors on the First Varsity boat," says Lani Skipper (II). She comes with so much vibrant energy to the team, whether she is leading the stroke or encouraging fellow teammates to finish the last five hundred meters on the ergs. She fully dedicates her time and love for the sport off and on the boat by fundraising for the team's new boat and by training endlessly, even off-season. As Maria told me herself, "I love crew because it's such a team effort. We all have to pull at exactly the same time, with exactly the same amount of pressure—we have to be totally in synch to get it right." And that in turn means, "I need to do better for every single person in that boat, because that's what they're doing for me."

A product of a 'soccer mania' family, Maria has been playing since age nine. She cites her favorite part of playing for Latin's Varsity team as their unique sense of balance between hard work and having fun. "Coach always gives us inspirational messages before each game, 'Be all you can be' and all that stuff. We always used to tuck them into our socks right before games. But when we played against really tough teams we started making our own." Also before a match, Maria's attire is always comprised of all purple, including her socks, hair accessories, and even her face paint. "We're not going to win, so we might as well have fun," she laughs. As teammate Martha O'Connell (I) pointed out to me, "you know Maria — she brings the same enthusiasm to the field as she does to everything else!"

Is This The Year?

BY THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The word "playoffs" hardly crossed any doubting Red Sox fan's mind as a reality back in late July, but as has been repeated by many in the media, "and then there was July 24th." Bill Mueller's comeback home-run and the exchange of the team's apparent cancerous shortstop seemed to do the trick for this Red Sox team and they started to play with some pizzazz. They quickened their pace on the Bronx Bombers and managed to narrow an atrocious 10 1/2 game gap as of June 16 to finish within three of the Evil Empire. A magical spell of winning 22 games out of 26 was good enough to get the Red Sox into leading contention for the wild card, which they eventually hung on to and have now surpassed the Anaheim Angels in the first round of the playoffs. They have now focused their attention to redemption: a rematch of last year's League Championship Series with the New York Yankees.

As the Red Sox started to approach the final stretch of the season in September, their starting pitching was what was

carrying them through. Curt Schilling went on a tear to eventually end up being the pitcher with the best winning percentage in the American League and a final record of 21-6. Pedro was Pedro; Derek Lowe, Tim Lincecum and Bronson Arroyo fell into a groove; everything was clicking. But as the two critical September series with the Yankees came into view, the starting pitching seemed to disintegrate in Terry Francona's hands, along with the generally reliable Keith Foulke. The biggest scare of the final run was the effort by Pedro. Although quoted many times saying that all he cares about is winning a ring, David McCarty had better control in the final game of the season, pitching two innings and striking out three, than Pedro in his four straight losses to the Devil Rays and the Yankees.

The hitting has fluctuated as well, but luckily it has spent more time at its peak. The team overall has been hitting very well with Manny Ramirez leading the pack as usual, with an American League leading 43 homeruns. The typically reliable Jason Varitek hit a slump at the end of the season that was only matched by his teammate Mark Bellhorn, who broke

the team record of strikeouts in a single season with 177.

However, as the ship steers into the playoffs and Terry Francona faces the real pressures of being the Red Sox manager, the team is keeping a positive attitude and allowing determination to guide them. The tough talk of the players doesn't end at their lips, as the Red Sox walked the walk by starting off the playoffs with a sweep in the Division Series against the Anaheim Angels. The team continued their offensive barrage by scoring seven runs in one inning, the most in one inning by any Red Sox team in the post season. Curt Schilling dominated and looked like the co-World Series MVP that he was in 2001, and the bullpen held their own. Pitching and defense are crucial in the postseason. The Red Sox have three gold glove infielders along with the miraculous Bill Mueller at third, the savior Johnny Damon in center, and the hard-nosed duo of Nixon and Kapler in right. Combine that with a pitching staff and bullpen that has shown bursts of invincibility and the best overall catcher in the game, this team could be walking the walk downtown and talking the talk at City Hall Plaza.

Patriots' Success Goes Beyond Players

By PAUL POKASKI, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

All Patriots fans have been focused on one number for quite some time now, and that number is eighteen. Eighteen is NFL record for most consecutive wins. Three teams have tied this record, but it has yet to be broken, and the Patriots, having won the final fifteen games of last season, including the playoffs and the Super Bowl, are in a great position to break it. But why has this team been so successful, winning two of the last three Super Bowls, in a time when experts thought it was impossible for a team to be that good for that long? This question can probably be answered by their leader and head coach Bill Belichick.

Since becoming the Patriots' head coach in the winter of 2000, Bill Belichick has led the team to two Super Bowl victories. But Belichick was not always this successful. After starting out as an assistant thirty years ago with the Baltimore Colts, Belichick finally became head coach of the Browns in 1999, but not without a rough start. During his tenure, the Browns had only one winning season and won only a single playoff game, ironically against the Patriots. A quarterback controversy and a proposed relocation to Baltimore did not allow him to establish a team with a positive attitude and good locker room chemistry, so after the Browns played their last year in Cleveland, he was let go.

Belichick then spent his time as an assistant coach to his mentor Bill Parcells with the Jets. Under his tutelage, he quickly became one of the most wanted assistants in the NFL, and in 2000, the Patriots hired him. In his first year the Patriots struggled to a 5-11 record. The



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next year he started 0-2, and rumors of his possible dismissal surfaced. Then Tom Brady took over. He led the Pats to a 14-3 record the rest of the way and was MVP of Super Bowl XXXVI.

The reasons for Belichick's immediate success come from far beyond the gridiron. He instills in his players a team-first attitude and has a no-nonsense approach, a rarity in the modern-day NFL filled with egocentric, self-centered athletes. He doesn't talk about the streak or defending his championship. These traits allow him to be a great coach.

His recent success even allowed him to be named to *Time* Magazine's list of the "100 Most Influential People." Belichick also owes some of his success to his assistants, including NFL Executive of the Year Scott Pioli.

Whether or not the Patriots break the consecutive victory record, the players will hardly care. They have only one goal—another Super Bowl ring. Given the team's recent success, this goal seems very reachable. Despite the departures of Damien Woody and Ted Washington, the team has started

strong. The addition of Corey Dillon gives the Patriots their best running game since Curtis Martin left and third-year player David Givens seems to have reached his potential. Dillon and Givens are leading the team in rushing and receiving, respectively. And of course, the team is still led by two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady, who is playing at the level Patriots fans have come to expect: nothing short of greatness. And if you ask Tom Brady, as many people have, which Super Bowl he enjoys the most, he'll reply, "The next one."

New Team Looks For Better Results

By ADAM FLEISCHER, II
STAFF WRITER

The 2004-2005 season presents numerous possibilities for the Boston Celtics. Coming off of a disappointing record last year of 36-46, a season that saw two coaches, one star, and many role players, the expectations for this team seem to be fairly high this time around. By making important transactions, through free agency, the NBA draft, and a blockbuster trade, the team should be able to compete with everyone on a nightly basis. The number of those games actually ending up as wins, however, is up in the air. Nonetheless, the Celtics have a legitimate chance to be one of the strong teams in a fairly weak, yet much improved, Eastern Conference. Last season, the Celtics had holes in just about every position, but heading into the opener on Wednesday, November 3, many of those voids have been filled. The point guard spot, which saw an array of starters last year from Marcus Banks or Chucky Atkins to Jiri Welsh, will be filled on a consistent basis by future hall-of-famer Gary Payton. Payton, the long time Seattle Supersonic, was acquired in a trade during the off-season from the Los Angeles Lakers along with the now retired Rick Fox, in exchange for Chucky Atkins, Jumaine Jones, and Chris Mihm, none of who had been on the Celtics for more than one season. Although Payton was often disgruntled and underachieved last season, he will definitely provide the



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team with both veteran leadership and superb play. Payton will also be able to help his backup, Banks, just a second year player, along with rookies Delonte West and Tony Allen, develop to their full po-

tential. Without a doubt, obtaining Gary Payton was an excellent move.

Another important transaction by the Celtics was that of forward Mark Blount. Blount came on strong towards

the end of last season, making his case as one of the best free agent big men; with this in mind, the C's accomplished an impressive feat in his resigning. Blount's inside game proved to be a nice compliment to the unstoppable scoring ability of perennial all-star Paul Pierce. Joining Pierce, Blount, and Payton is the play of an undeniable talent, 6-7, high flying, Ricky Davis. Davis was acquired last year via a trade with Cleveland, where, as with his all of his three stops before the Celtics, he caused trouble on and off of the court. He has provided no such distractions in Boston, and has constantly looked to better the team. Davis could not have done this on his own, though. He has undoubtedly been aided by coaches and those around him.

The next in this line of coaches attempting to help Davis stay under control is new head man coach Doc Rivers. Rivers has both NBA playing and coaching experience, and was named the NBA coach of the year in Orlando in 2001. He is a player's coach, willing to listen, but not hesitating to lay down the law when it becomes necessary. Rivers will surely let Payton run the show in the all-star manner that has been his trademark over the last decade, while at the same time making sure that Pierce is able to put up his usual twenty five or so points per game. With the help of these three men and others, the Celtics are poised for a near .500 season at worst, and can be looking towards a spot in the playoffs come May.

Meet the New Teachers

» From NEW TEACHERS, page 4
of them.

Any tidbits?
I believe that everyone has a high potential, and one will succeed with hard work.

Liz Hauck

What subjects do you teach?

Spanish I, Spanish II, and Spanish V Honors.

Where did you come from originally?

Boston, Mass. I attended Boston Latin in grades 7 through 12.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

In college I volunteered at the Suffolk County House of Correction. I learned a lot from the men and women I worked with, especially the importance of faith and the value of education.

What college did you attend?

Boston College, a Jesuit school in Massachusetts built around the ideal of educating oneself for the service of others—which also I think has a football team.

What are some of your interests or hobbies?

Travel, writing, and watching the Red Sox.

What is one thing you have learned from your experience so far at BLS?

When I was a sixie in homeroom 302, my homeroom teacher Mr. Kreinsen had a poster over the door of a close-up of one of the columns in the front of the school, with the words "Celebration of Excellence" written under it. I always think of that poster and Mr. Kreinsen when people ask

me what Boston Latin School is about. It's not just about being smart: it's about realizing that there is always the possibility to learn more and the need to use your talent to serve a higher good.

Kathleen Bateman

What subjects do you teach?

Biology and Chemistry.

Where did you come from originally?

West Roxbury, Mass.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I scuba dive; I have been on six of seven continents; and my dog is from Tanzania, East Africa.

What college did you attend?

University of New Hampshire.

What are some of your interests or hobbies?

Shepherding, pirating, hiking, traveling, parasailing, competing on Iron Chef, and alligator wrestling.

What is one thing that you have already learned at BLS?

That secretaries rule the school!

Any tidbits?

All kidding aside, I am thrilled to be working at Boston Latin School, my alma mater, '93. The science department has been very welcoming and helpful. I am looking forward to a great year!

Rebecca Chodes

What subject do you teach?

Latin.

Where are you from?

Boston, Mass.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I used to teach at Hingham High School in Hingham, Mass.

What colleges did you attend?

Tufts: B.A. in Latin and Greek; Columbia: M.A. in Latin; Harvard: Ed.M. in Teaching and Curriculum.

Do you have any favorite pastimes?

I love to travel.

How has your experience here at BLS been so far?

Everyone in this building works hard! Lots of school spirit. So far I am enjoying being a teacher here very much.

Andrew Walker

What subjects do you teach?

Three sections of Latin, and one section of seventh grade English.

Where are you from?

Seattle.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

Between high school and college, I spent four years working as an ironworker. And I worked on building a nuclear reactor and on a uranium plant, both in Washington State. I also lived in LA for six years: "I heart LA." Now I live in Providence.

Do you have any special interests or hobbies?

I like to sail a lot and I like carpentry and home improvement. I like to garden.

How has your experience at BLS been so far?

I feel overwhelmed with all the work, and impressed with the high caliber of the

students.

Any tidbits you'd like to add?

I would like to start a Fero Club, for people who really like the verb fero. Also, I've never met a passive periphrastic I didn't like.

Wing Sze Leung

What subjects do you teach?

Algebra I and Geometry.

Where are you from?

Hong Kong, but I have lived in Boston most of my life.

Tell us one interesting thing about yourself.

I am a Boston Latin School alum.

What college did you attend?

I went to Boston University.

Do you have any hobbies or favorite pastimes?

I like doing origami, arts and crafts, singing karaoke, and I love the Red Sox!

What is one thing that you have already learned at BLS this year?

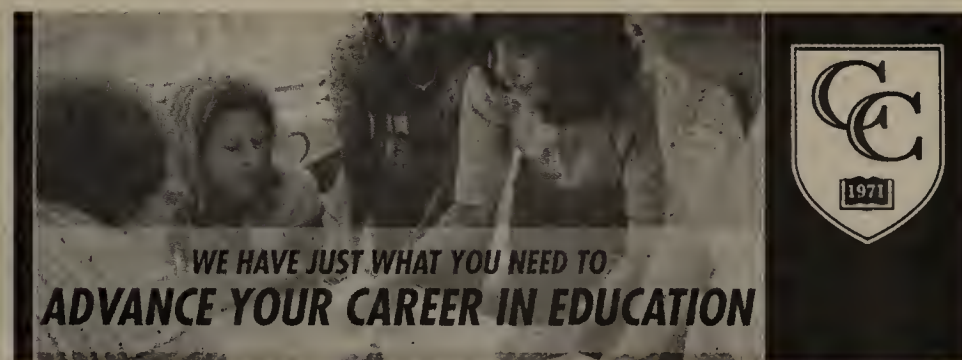
First of all, I've learned that pushing a cart around isn't fun, but my experience so far has been good, although it's strange that I am teaching with colleagues who are my former teachers.

Any tidbits?

Red Sox all the way!

Interview data compiled by Jieyu Ji-ang (III) and Rebecca Bilodeau (III). Some teachers declined to be photographed for interviews.

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Know-It-All Horoscopes: Ken Jennings Speaks

Libra (9/23-10/23) - When all doors of opportunities are closed to you, the natives citizens of Antarctica will welcome you with open arms.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21) - Ignore your friends when they tell you that the kazoo isn't cool. It'll be the key to your lady's heart.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21) - Don't think and drive. It's too much for you.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19) - This too shall pass.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18) - Your future career as a piñata will be full of meaning impacts and sweet success.

Pisces (2/19-3/20) - Claustrophobia is not a sexually-trans-

mitted disease.

Aries (3/21-4/19) - Quand les tensions de la vie vous font souffrir, n'oubliez pas de tomber dans des carreaux du verre.

Taurus (4/20-5/20) - At least your passport photo is better than your driver's license.

Gemini (5/21-6/21) - Your curiosity will be satisfied when you bring the hairdryer into the bathtub.

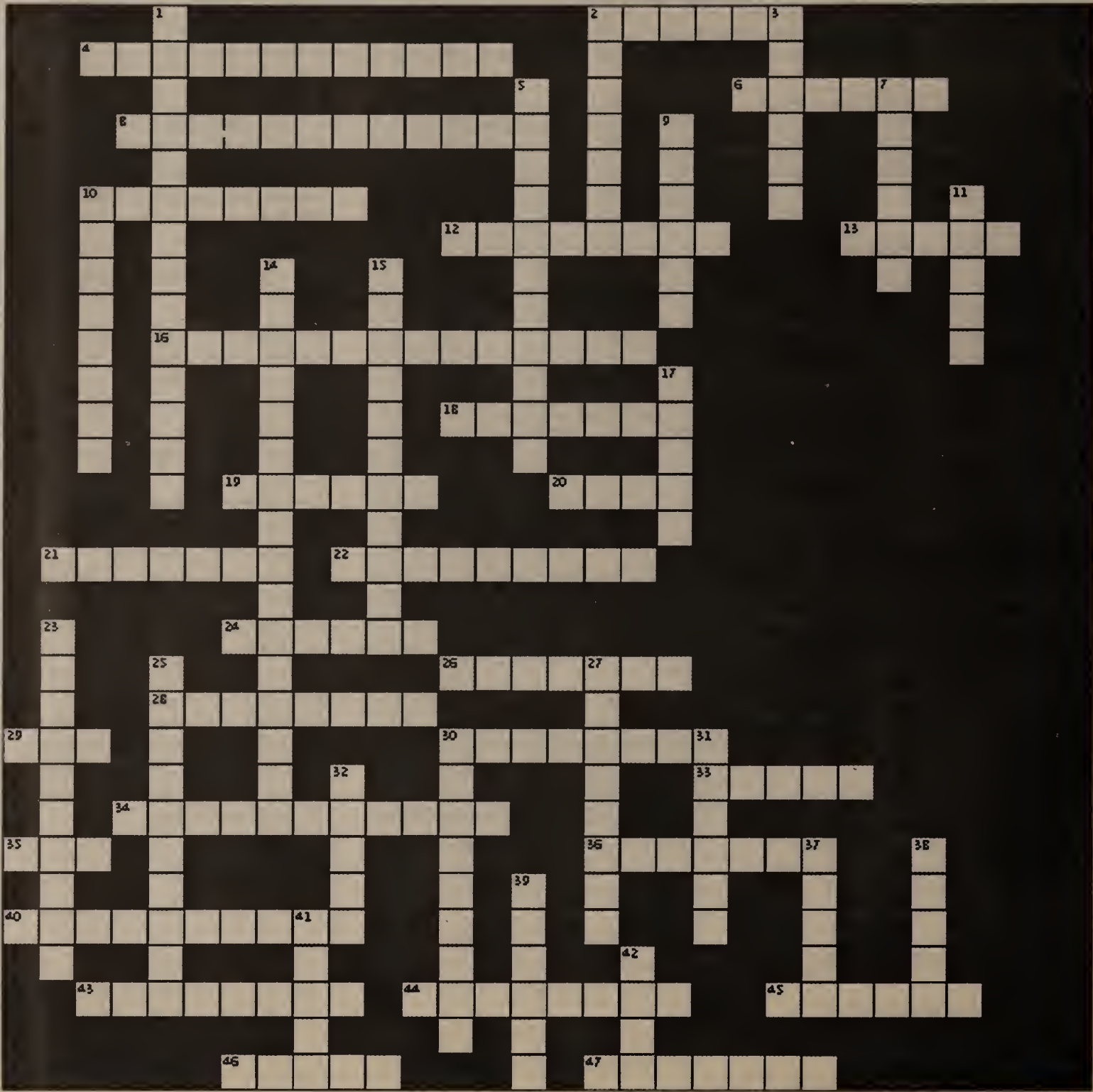
Cancer (6/22-7/22) - For a good time, call (617) 635-8895.

Leo (7/23-8/22) - Next time, keep your dog leashed.

Virgo (8/23-9/22) - Beware of bright-eyed strangers. Your heart will be soon crenellated.

Compiled by Ashlyn Garry, II, News Editor and Yucong Ma, II, Assistant A&E Editor

THE BACK PAGE



THE RETURN OF THE
Argo Kreuzworträtsel

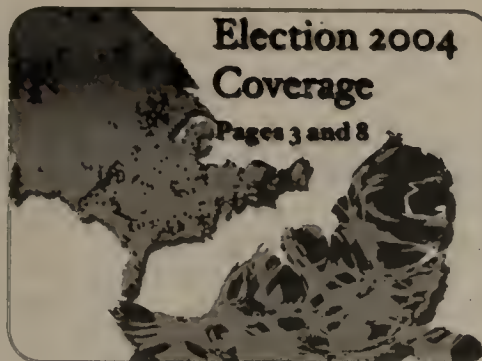
Across

- 2. Little bodies coupled to large backpacks.
- 4. Owner of the Evil Empire.
- 6. Infamous new BMW designer.
- 8. Leonardo, Michaelangelo, Donatello, and Raphael, as abnormal adolescents.
- 10. 1,3,7-trimethylxanthine, more commonly; a staple of BLS students.
- 12. Bade farewell in 8th grade English.
- 13. Leno's successor on the Tonight Show.
- 16. NFL Rookie of the Week.
- 18. Herbal remedy for malaria. (English)
- 19. Closer for the Red Sox.
- 20. Thursday's Norse god.
- 21. Ben & Jerry's home.
- 22. 'Newspaper,' to José.
- 24. Lately Superman.
- 26. The eighth month, etymologically.
- 28. President of the Class of 2005.
- 29. The 3rd person plural, present active subjunctive form of sum, esse, fui, —.
- 30. Good Norsemen go here when they die.
- 33. Fond of firing others.
- 34. Where Harold and Kumar went.
- 35. Before, to a poet.
- 36. Middle Eastern phyllo pastry.
- 40. Fifth mode in music.
- 43. Moniker for Beethoven's Sixth Symphony.
- 44. Seven-sided figure.

- 45. Designer of Boston's cathedral. (Look at the spread.)
- 46. Vermont band that broke up.
- 47. Mme. Insanally's first name.

Down

- 1. Britney Spears's new spouse.
- 2. Latin School's Maestro.
- 3. Swiss watch.
- 5. Old Bond car
- 7. Big Ben's home.
- 9. Makes 'Dance Dance Revolution.'
- 10. Saxophone player John _____.
- 11. Required financial aid form.
- 14. Military defeat for World War II-era Germans and overweight Americans.
- 15. Ghenghis Khan of doughnuts; recently conquered New England.
- 17. Yankees are "his daddy."
- 23. Happy cows come from _____.
- 25. Jamie Foxx will play this Jazz great.
- 27. The 4th floor Multipurpose Room.
- 30. Female battle-spirits of Norse mythology.
- 31. AMD processor.
- 32. Red Sox Messiah.
- 37. California computer designers.
- 38. Real color of the Multipurpose Room.
- 39. New Celtics point guard.
- 41. Video game empire; rock group.
- 42. Thirteen-year-old Foxboro pop star.



Lunch at Latin: Hot and Cold

BY JIEYU JIANG, III
STAFF WRITER

While most students at Boston Latin School cringe at the very sight of the so-called food offered in the dining hall, the fare has perhaps received an all-too-dismal reputation. With more than 2,500 students, the school is the largest consumer of meals in the Boston Public Schools. Each day 14 dining hall staff prepare and serve more than 700 students. According to Sandra Lowney, head of the BLS dining staff, while most foods are prepared during the day, the pizza comes from Sal's Just Pizza, a USDA-approved facility that makes pizza for 500 schools around New England. Says Lowney: "All of our foods are cooked right in the school with canola oil; less than 10 percent of the calories in our hamburgers come from fat. And we strictly follow the menu provided by the BPS Food and Nutrition Office; we make special lunch for anyone that requests it, and we try our best to accommodate all students and provide them with the most nutritious and healthy lunch that we possibly can." What Boston Latin School can serve, however, is of course limited by the strict budget imposed by the school department.

Per the National School Lunch Act, the Department of Agriculture mandates that free school meals be provided to "safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children." The USDA-approved

Enhanced Food-Based Menu Planning Approach includes a variety of foods: grain products such as bread and pasta, meat or meat alternatives such as peanut butter or dairy, two or more servings of vegetables and fruits, and moderate amounts of sugar

are being made to introduce brown rice, green vegetables, and healthier snacks, as well as to encourage drinking of one-percent or chocolate milk instead of whole. As Alvin Phu (III) observes, "people would rather buy snacks and the school knows

and unhealthy foods, the lunch experience at Boston Latin can still be stressful and unfulfilling. Kristine Xue (III) says that "the school lunch rations are too meager. I feel like I'm still hungry, even after I eat the whole lunch. They should have more variety, too, like salads for those who are vegetarian." The 19 minutes of lunch are enough for inhaling a lunch, but are not enough for eating one, especially after standing in long lines that extend to the outskirts of the dining hall. As Sophia Mooney (III) says, "the major problem with...lunches is that standing in line...takes a while and then you don't have...time to eat. That's why I don't buy lunch at school."

There are several meal choices provided by the school, but the food sometimes runs out before the end of the lunch periods. Other items, especially the steamed vegetables, do not look appealing to students and are therefore not eaten. A typical BLS lunch includes a slice of pizza, fries and canned fruit. These lunches do not comply with USDA standards, which recommend at least two servings of fresh vegetables and fruit every day. Also, those unfortunate students who cannot run to the dining hall everyday don't get any fruit, since they frequently run out midway through each lunch period. Clearly the lunch experience at Boston Latin is not yet perfect, but continued supervision by national and local officials can only improve the situation.



BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

and salt. Calories from fat are supposed to be 30 percent or fewer of the total calories, and calories from saturated fat less than 10 percent.

Debra Korzec-Ramirez, Nutrition Education Coordinator for the BPS Food and Nutrition Department, says that healthier options are on the way. Attempts

that. At least now they're...stocking the vending machines with nutritious things like yogurt, low-fat baked chips and pretzels. I'd rather have something that I know the contents of instead of having some strange food."

Although the bureaucrats at Court Street may be working to eliminate "strange"

Kids Won't Walk Now

BY KATIE HARRISON, III &
REBECCA BILODEAU, III
STAFF WRITER & EBA

The Boston Public Schools Committee recently voted to reject a plan to divide Boston into six school districts instead of the current three, favoring instead smaller and more gradual changes to the current student assignment system. The plan was proposed by a group of parents and educators hoping to establish a system of neighborhood schools instead of today's system, which requires extensive busing. Opponents of the plan rejected it because of concerns that it would restore the racial uniformity seen in neighborhood schools of the past. Instead, a small change was made to the walk zone policy that will allow students to gain walk zone status across zone lines.

In the past, even if students lived

within a mile of a school, they could not attend it if it were located in another of the city's three zones. Exactly 66 schools will be affected by this change. Although it will grant students more options, it will also increase transportation costs. If a student lives more than a mile away from his or her school, the BPS must provide that student with transportation. With the revision in place, transportation must also be provided to students who live within a one-mile radius of the school if more than a mile of surface streets separate them.

The task force, chaired by Theodore Landmark, president of the Boston Architectural Center, proposed the six-zone plan in order to address concerns about the busing situation in Boston and propose revisions to the system. Currently, half of the seats in a school are reserved

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November in Iraq

BY MARY HONG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The central goal of the U.S. government's current military operation in Iraq is to create an environment stable enough for legitimate democratic elections to be held in January 2005. Right now there is an American presence of over 14,200 troops in Iraq, although the goal is to gradually reduce these over time as Iraq becomes more self-sufficient militarily as well as bureaucratically. That's the plan, but the process is never as clear-cut. An update on what has been brewing in Iraq during recent weeks:

Plan of Attack

On November 7, 2004, the interim Iraqi government declared a 60-day state of emergency that entailed an extended curfew, the prohibition of weapons, the closing of roads, the sealing of the Jorda-

nian and Syrian borders and a temporary shutdown of Baghdad International Airport. All this was done to aid the U.S.-led offensive against the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah 40 miles west of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle, a 100-mile area stretching from the capital to the city of Tikrit, where 80 percent of insurgent attacks have been taking place. Fallujah is believed to be the base of operations for Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, leader of the terrorist organization Tawhid Al Jihad, responsible for numerous recent kidnappings and deaths. Besides attempting to cripple a destructive terrorist network, secure more of the Sunni Triangle, and stabilize conditions for January elections, there is another, more symbolic motive for this military operation. The government hopes that a successful campaign

IRAQ
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Global News Tidbits

>> The Boston Latin School Library has recently prohibited students from using the circular wooden tables in the library. Evidently a student carving was found on one of the tables. (Argo)

>> Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, died on Thursday, November 11, in

France. Though the cause of death has not yet been released, some of his followers suspect poisoning. (AP)

>> When the Lucky Dollar Casino of Greensburg, Louisiana, was robbed of nearly \$75,000 a few days ago, police officials didn't know where to start. When the suspect's lawyer contacted the police to tell them one bag had been thrown in a creek, officials began searching it. As they began to break down a beaver dam on the creek, they found thousands of hundred dollar bills. Almost \$40,000 was found woven

amongst the dam's branches. (AP)

>> Boston's own Big Dig, the most expensive public works project in our nation's history, has sprung leaks. Officials may have known about them since 1997. Workers are struggling to plug four to five hundred small holes in the \$14.6 billion walls. (AP)

>> Secretary of State Colin Powell, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, Education Secretary Rod Paige and Attorney General John Ashcroft have

all resigned from President Bush's Cabinet since his re-election. Most have done so because they feel they have spent enough time in the White House. (AP)

>> Goli Otok, a makeshift gulag established in Croatia by Yugoslavia's former dictator Josip Broz Tito, may soon be reopened. It will again feature hard labor and solitary confinement, but for tourists, not prisoners. Though the city council has yet to make a decision, many locals are all for it—even former prisoners who have volunteered to act as tour guides. (AP)

NEWS

Boston Latin's Big Brother

BY COLIN SANTANGELO, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At the beginning of the school year, Boston Latin School students were assigned to memorize the mission statement. This is not because of a sudden rush of school spirit or because the administration wants to make life more stressful. The reason is that for the next two years, Boston Latin School will attempt to be re-accredited.

Accreditation is the stamp of approval given by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), certifying that the school has met certain requirements. The NEASC visits schools every 10 years; an official review team determines whether the school meets certain standards. The standards are divided into categories: Mission and Expectations, School Community, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, Leadership and Organization, and School and Community

Resources for Learning.

About a year and a half before the official team visits, the institution, the school undergoes a year of self-study. Committees of teachers, students, and parents assess different aspects of the school for qualification. At the end of the self-study process, each committee generates an individual report. These reports are then shown to the team from NEASC.

Arriving at Boston Latin in October 2005, the official review board will be made up of teachers and administrators from secondary schools all over New England. To make the decision of whether to re-accredit the school, the board members shadow students during a typical school day (even eating lunch with them) and talk to faculty, students, and parents about what goes on at the school.

What the accreditation group decides, according to Head Master Ms. Cornelia Kelley, is very important to

students' futures: "One of the most important results of accreditation is that it validates the diploma. On your transcript it will say 'Accredited by NEASC,' and colleges look for that."

One of the requirements, at least in the case of Boston Latin School, is that the mission statement be known by all students and faculty and posted in every classroom. This may seem like an unnecessary measure, but Head Master Kelley feels that it is good for "students know the mission statement" so that they know the school's expectations and hopes for them.

For many students, learning the statement has been a hassle and just another thing to add to their busy schedules. But for the students of Ms. Molly McDonald's eighth grade homeroom, it has become fun. Every morning in 024, the room rings with the joyous sound of 30

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for students who live within walking distance of the school. A student is given walk zone priority if they live within a one-mile radius of the school. Any student who lives in the zone in which the school is located can apply and may be selected to attend that school if chosen from the lottery.

To supplement this task force, Superintendent Thomas Payzant called for discussions in which concerns about the school assignment system would be brought forth. There they would be applied to the formation of an altered system that Payzant hopes to implement in time to affect students entering new schools in the 2005-2006 school year. Much of the disagreement has its roots in the fact that schools in neighborhoods with large minority populations have historically been provided with less support from the BPS and have not been able to provide the same quality of education offered in mostly white neighborhoods.

Two major viewpoints were presented during these discussions. The Walk2School group wishes to revert to a system of neighborhood schools, similar to the system eliminated by the busing laws, put into effect in 1974. Students would be assigned to whatever school was closest to their homes. The opposing viewpoint,

held by the Work4Quality Coalition, states that the overall quality of Boston Public Schools must be improved before ideas of zoning or busing can even be taken into account when assigning students to schools. In September, the task force proposed a plan which would divide the city into six zones instead of three; this was intended to provide parents with more options when choosing schools as well as promote neighborhood schools and cutting transportation costs by as much as \$10 million.

The root of this busing debate can be found in the attempts to desegregate Boston schools in the 1970s. At that time, *de facto* segregation existed in many northeastern cities, but it was Boston that rose to prominence as a national symbol of racial hatred. A system of assigning children to neighborhood schools would have done nothing to eliminate school segregation in the city. In 1974, a new plan was implemented in response to a lawsuit stating that the BPS had favored schools in white neighborhoods over those in minority neighborhoods. Under the busing plan, students were assigned to schools outside their neighborhoods in an attempt to balance the racial makeup of Boston's schools. Parents had no say regarding which school their children would attend. Racial tension and violence were kindled in areas where segregation was most pro-

nounced, and scenes of attacks directed at black students bused from Roxbury to South Boston were broadcasted across the United States.

In response to busing, many white families transferred their children to private and parochial schools. Other white families moved out of the city to avoid busing. This is still evident today in the racial background of students attending Boston Public Schools. Today, 47 percent of students in the system are black, 30 percent Hispanic, 14 percent white, nine percent Asian, and one percent Native American; in 1972, 51 percent were white, 36 percent black, and 13 percent "other minority."

A system of "controlled choice" was put into effect in 1989 to try to placate those opposed to the 1974 policy. The city was divided into three zones: North, East, and West. Parents could choose a school from within their zone, but each school was required by law to meet racial quotas, in order to create a more diverse student body. These quotas were deciding factors in students admitted and were eliminated in 1999 because of protests by parents that their white children had been discriminated against based on race. Their removal resulted in much of the current confusion as to what can be done to ensure that students are allowed equal educational opportunities.

A Message from the Head Master

In the letter I mailed to your home in August and at the assemblies in September, I required that all of you learn the BLS Mission Statement. I am interested in your understanding of section II of the mission and I am asking you a

question in this issue: Would you please share with me in writing your definition of "successful college studies"?

Please submit your thoughts (no more than one page) to Mrs. Malone in the Main Office. Be sure to include your

name and year of graduation.

Special thanks to the *Argo* editors.

Cornelia Kelley
Head Master



Boston Latin School
Argo

ARGO
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
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BOSTON, MA 02115

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Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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Boston Latin School *Argo*
2004-2005 Academic Year

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Election 2004: A Country's Growing Divide

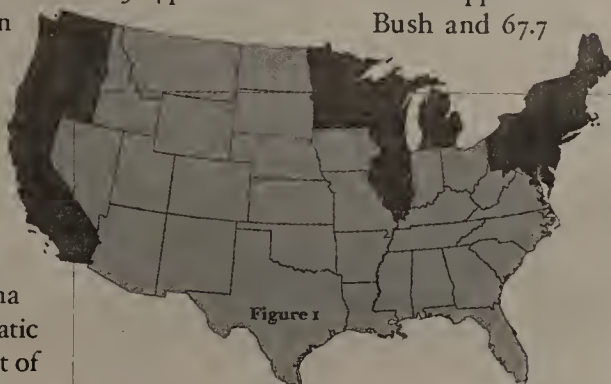
By ASHLYN GARRY, II
NEWS EDITOR

November 2, 2004 was the culmination of a vigorous and at times vicious campaign by Senator John Kerry and the incumbent President George W. Bush. People all around the world waited anxiously to learn the fate of their candidates of choice. Now that the polls have closed, the votes counted, and the election decided, it is clear that politics have become more and more entangled in American lifestyles.

With a brief glance at a map of the election results, America appears almost completely Republican red. There are three blue spots: the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, the Pacific Coast, and every state on the Great Lakes—except for Indiana and, of course, Ohio. The most Democratic counties in the nation were the District of Columbia (89.32 percent voted Democratic); Shannon, South Dakota (84.61 percent); San Francisco, California (83.24 percent); Macon, Alabama (82.64 percent); and Menominee, Wisconsin (82.5 percent). Except for Shannon and Macon, the other counties voted with their states. The red expanse is everywhere else: the South, Midwest, West, and the Southwest. The most Republican counties are Ochiltree, Texas (91.97 percent voted as Republicans); Madison, Idaho (91.90 percent); Roberts, Texas (91.65 percent); Glasscock, Texas (91.56 percent); and Arthur, Nebraska (90.15 percent). This extreme regional uniformity raises questions as to why American voting patterns become so area-centric. The answers are tied to many factors, including race.

In Macon, Alabama, residents are 85 percent African-American. It is also the home of Tuskegee University, one of America's seven historically black colleges. Young black voters here are drawn to the Democratic Party, just as they are elsewhere—the African-American vote is overwhelmingly Democratic nationwide. The results in Shannon and Menominee also suggest something quite new to political researchers: Native American Democrats are on the rise. Both counties are home to reservations. Even in President Bush's power base in Texas, the Democratic Party has been making strides at a

rate of 2 percent more Democratic votes in each election for the past 10 years. Some experts attribute these types of increases to the growing number of Latino Democrats. Recent surveys of Latino voters by the Associated Press and the William C. Velásquez Institute of San Antonio, Texas have provided contradictory results. The Associated Press states that 44 percent chose Bush while 53 percent chose Kerry; the Velásquez Institute's results show that 31.4 percent of Latino voters supported Bush and 67.7



percent supported Kerry. Although these new voting demographics were important in this year's election, however, there is an even more influential power in the United States.

Some political observers, including Bill Bishop, a columnist for *The Austin American-Statesman*, believe that rural America was the key factor in the decision of who was elected as the next president of the United States. In Ohio, Kerry carried urban areas by about 73,000 votes; outside urban Ohio, Bush won by approximately 209,146 votes. Before election day, it was reported that President Bush was trying to garner more rural votes in Pennsylvania by appealing to the traditionally conservative but typically non-voting Amish. Nonethe-

[the day] feel different." Ms. McDonald likens it "to a day when you wake up and have Declaration." Head Master Kelley shares the same view as Ms. McDonald in terms of the merit of the process: "It's a worthwhile process. It asks the school community to reflect on itself,—something we should all do every day."

When asked about the process so far, Ms. McDonald said that it has been good, but could definitely use improvement. Since "BLS students have lots of ideas on to make BLS great," they should be involved in school affairs beyond memorizing the mission statement. Head Master Kelley agrees that communication among the members of the school community could be better, but she cites the Internet as "a terrific communication tool," even though "there are always people who don't cooperate."

Receiving accreditation is not just important to faculty members; it also enhances the worth of the diploma, which is important for college admission. Also,

less, Senator Kerry received the 21 electoral votes held by Pennsylvania. Although he lost Pennsylvania, President Bush was able to carry every primarily rural state not in the Northeast.

Many communities in America have in time gravitated towards one specific political party. Though these trends have not been thoroughly researched, it is reasonable to assume that if one were interested in buying a home, seeing potential neighbors with political signs from the opposite party in their yards might eliminate that neighborhood as a choice. In more expensive gated communities, only people with a certain level of income can afford to buy a home. These people want to look out for their best financial interests and vote for the candidate who will give them what they want. As time passes, the trend has continued, and precincts have become more and more homogenous in political

as a Democrat for president on a platform supporting civil rights, former Republicans joined with Democrats, causing a landslide win for Johnson. This election is often cited as the origin of the two parties' constituencies as we know them today.

In 1972, Richard Nixon and vice presidential candidate Spiro Agnew ran against George McGovern and R. Sargent Shriver. During this election, tangible cultural differences began to be associated with each party. In speeches, Republican Agnew tried to paint the Democrats as disillusioned young people who could only protest and demonstrate. In return, the Democratic Party described Republicanism as the party of strict and conservative older people: the dispirited, dismayed, and forlorn. Still, whether hopeless or not, the Republicans won with more than 30 times the amount of electoral votes.

Times of incredible hardship also have shaped the two major political parties. When Ronald Reagan ran for president in 1980, he pledged to repair the damage done to America by the Vietnam War, improve the economy, and bring a peaceful end to the Cold War. To unhappy and insecure voters, these ideas and Reagan's positive spin were so tempting that Reagan won by a landslide, losing only five states and the District of Columbia to Jimmy Carter. September 11, 2001 was a more recent event that has forever altered both American politics and American society as a whole. The threats of terrorism and nuclear attack have caused many people to change their views on the government, even turning previously liberal Democrats

into "9/11 Democrats." The chief concern of these people is homeland security, and they have been willing to sacrifice civil liberties previously taken for granted in the name of national defense. But the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that have resulted from the "War on Terror" have caused other Americans to become so outraged that they have switched parties.

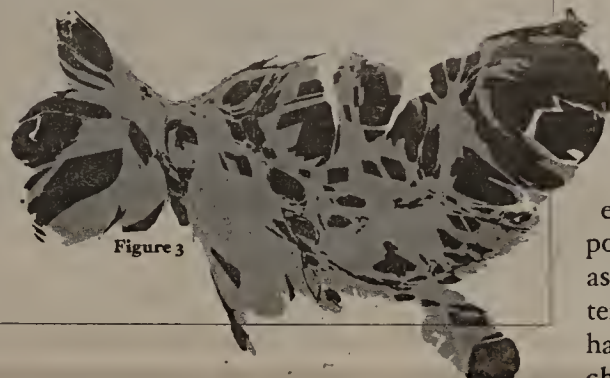
This schism within the regions of United States has grown exponentially since September 11, 2001. Unless curbed soon, it will continue to do so. Leaders of both political parties have urged national unity; this, however, will be nearly impossible without drastic adjustments to American political and cultural perceptions.

The Election's Three Faces

Figure 1: Victories by state—the most common way of showing a candidate's victory.

Figure 2: Victories by county—without adjustment for county population.

Figure 3: A county-by-county cartogram adjusting county sizes by population.



ELECTION GRAPHICS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

affiliation. Proximity to a place of worship is another factor some people consider when looking for new homes. Though most churches officially refuse to take a stance on presidential elections, believers often consider church policies on reproductive rights, stem cell research, capital punishment, gay rights, etc. before casting their votes. In the exit polls on November 2, 22 percent of voters cited "moral values" as the most important issue to them, so it is likely that if these people live near each other and belong to the same faith, their votes were similar.

Up until the election of 1964, the Republican Party consisted of northerners and African-Americans. When Lyndon Johnson ran with Hubert Humphrey, however,

during the self-study process, some of the school's flaws may be found and fixed. For instance, in 1995 the school did not receive full accreditation because of the inadequacy of its library. Now the school has one of the best libraries in the region.

Since she has been through accredi-

Rumors have been circulating that Ms. Kelley's recent absence from Boston Latin School was due to a sojourn to Switzerland, a nation of the Alps and world-renowned chocolate. Ms. Kelley was indeed in Switzerland, improbable though it may seem. She has been a member of the NEASC, or New England Association of Schools and Colleges, for some time. She traveled as part of an eight-person team that visited the International School of Bern, the Swiss capital.

Ms. Kelley explained that the school has 260 students from kindergarten to the 12th grade, and five buildings, one of which she referred to as a "Swiss chateau."

tation before as chair of a review team, Head Master Kelley says that her greatest hope for next October is that "when the team comes, we'll host them as we would host visitors to our home."

"They thought they were overcrowded," she said with a good-natured laugh.

When asked about the Swiss scenery, Ms. Kelley said that off in the distance they could see the Alps, where students from the school go skiing for seven Fridays each winter. The weather was "absolutely lovely"—that is, for five days out of her seven-day stay it didn't rain. Ms. Kelley said that when the sun was out, the sky was a brilliant blue, and "every stereotype you might have" was true. Except for the famous chocolate she had been expecting. "So finally I said, do you do chocolate? And their idea was M&Ms."

—Julia Arnous, III

» BIG BROTHER continued from page 2

fivesies and a teacher melodiously singing their musical version of the mission statement. According to her, singing it really "took some stress out, seeing that we have lots to memorize already."

Ms. McDonald should know: she has been through the accreditation process before at the Will Barton Rogers Middle School. She says that being there for its accreditation was completely different from being here at Boston Latin: "At the Rogers, there was a much smaller staff and it was set up differently. The big staff has made it easier and harder. There are a lot more voices to be heard, but with the teachers organized into different committees, communication is a little easier. Both schools were intense, but BLS is even more so, with every teacher really getting their hands dirty."

For her, accreditation is a reminder to use "good habits" in the classroom, because "having the people there ... makes

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will show the insurgency that it has the strength and the means to fully secure the country.

After sunset on Monday, November 8, thousands of U.S. and Iraqi forces advanced into Fallujah, where an estimated 1,000 to 5,000 insurgents (both local Sunni Muslims and foreign militants) are entrenched. To keep casualties to a minimum, a massive air attack preceded the ground offensive into the destitute northwestern district of Jolan, where resistance was expected to be heaviest. After the air strike, U.S. infantry and marines in armored vehicles pelted neighborhoods with machine gun and mortar fire. Inching through the district street by street, soldiers armed with plastic explosives and blasting cords sometimes fought from room to room, jumping from roof to roof, tearing down walls and navigating booby-trapped houses. The most intense fighting took place around fortified mosques, where insurgents stored weapons and bomb-making materials. From their minarets snipers would shoot at passing troops.

Although the fight is not over yet, every access point to the city has been cut off. Males between 15 to 55 years of age are not allowed to leave, while women, children and the elderly have free passage. A possible audiotape of al-Zarqawi, which encouraged insurgents to keep up resistance and condemned those who support Americans as betraying Islam, was broadcasted soon after the assault. Throughout Iraq, Iraqi and American troops are still searching for insurgents left behind the front lines.

By standards of guerrilla warfare analysts, however, several points of the affair in Iraq are considered failures. Firstly, the insurgents are still not offering as solid a target as had been hoped. Also, it is believed that many insurgents had already left the city before the much-publicized offensive began, planning to return at a later date. In other words, the mission could have failed in eradicating radical extremists or significantly impacting the insurgent base. In addition, a total of 38 Americans have been killed in the assault so far, compared to six Iraqis. As of yet, only 2,000 Iraqi

troops have been trained, and although the interim government is trying to rapidly train recruits, soldiers are being killed daily. Death tolls from the war are substantial: over 1,120 Americans have been killed—an average of two per day. Many troops also lack the necessary equipment or are spread so thin as to be ineffective. An example: in Al-Qawa, outnumbered American guards could do nothing as insurgents looted ammunition stockpiles.

Insurgency Reaction

The military action in Fallujah has created harmful backlash in the form of a dramatic upsurge in anti-American and anti-Shi'ite violence similar to the

whelmed members of the Iraqi National Guard and took several bridges across the Tigris. Across the city, insurgents attacked police stations and gangs wandered the streets stealing weapons; some tried to destroy election registration cards at a food distribution center. In the confusion, the governor had to request more security, which was obtained by sapping four battalions of the Iraqi National Guard from the Syrian-Iranian border. The fact that these units consisted mostly of Kurdish *ex-peshmerga* militia members did not promote ethnic harmony.

In Baghdad itself, patrols have been under constant fire, even in previously



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

reaction to last April's aborted siege on Fallujah. In Sunni towns and villages west of Fallujah there have been increased incidents of sniper attacks, bombings, and abductions. The attacks have hindered reconstruction efforts by destabilizing security and bureaucracy, hindering the two major goals of the current Iraqi agenda.

Baghdad and Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, have also both seen major setbacks. Combat operations have escalated in Mosul because of attacks by insurgents in retaliation for coalition action in Fallujah. Rebels there over-

secured "green" areas, and recent car bombings have killed over 30 civilians. On November 11, the Sunni cleric Sheik Mahdi al Sumaidai was arrested after Iraqi troops raided his mosque and found stocked weapons, TNT, a list of National Guard officers, and photos of attacks on American soldiers. Adding to the chaos, the influential "scholars' association" of over 30,000 Sunni clerics in Iraq has called repeatedly for civil disobedience in protest over the assault on Fallujah. If Sunnis decide not to vote in protest, the legitimacy of a new

Iraqi government could be seriously questioned.

The Human Face of Fallujah

In analyzing the current situation in Iraq, it is also necessary to take into account the sufferings of the civilians. In Fallujah, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society is appealing to the government for aid, reporting a flood of typhoid cases and a lack of food, power and water. On November 10, advancing American troops found the bodies of five civilians who had been shot in the head inside an abandoned house. On the same day, a "hostage slaughterhouse" was found with bloody mats, hostage documents, videos of their ordeals and a beaten Iraqi man bound to the wall by the wrists. An estimated 200,000 residents had been able to flee the area before the attacks began and some 2,000 families have since relocated to a nearby refugee camp at Habbaniya, but there still remain an unknown number of civilians in the crumbling and dangerous city.

Hostage-taking continues in Iraq. Two French journalists abducted in late August by the Islamic Army have yet to be found. Since the beginning of the war, over 170 foreign nationals have been taken hostage. Out of those, 34 are confirmed dead. In an attempt to pressure the prime minister to terminate the Fallujah operation, insurgents kidnapped and threatened to behead Allawi's 75-year-old cousin, his nephew, and his nephew's pregnant wife.

Fortunately though, there is some good news. So far the United States has succeeded in pushing into Fal-

lujah, seizing weapons and tightening the noose on rebel troops. Although considered insurgent groups, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party support the United States. The first ever Iraqi reconstruction exhibit will be held in early January. Several countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Germany, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Iran, Oman and over 200 local firms, have registered in hopes of participating in and profiting from the reconstruction process.

Deception, Persecution Continue in Sudan

By JULIA ARNOUS, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

The Sudanese government and non-Muslim rebel groups, although still without a plan for ultimate peace, have finally made a formal agreement to allow humanitarian relief groups to enter Darfur's refugee camps. This agreement was reached as a result of negotiations in Abuja, Nigeria, which ended on November 10.

Pressure from the international community surely has had an impact on the outcome of the negotiations, as the Sudanese government has been denounced not only for supporting the Janjaweed but also for further persecuting refugees. In the early morning hours of November 2, several refugee camps were suddenly surrounded by Sudanese forces, aid groups were turned away, and thousands of refugees were coercively moved to different camps. According to some reports, the Sudanese were acting in response to the capture of 18 members of Sudan's Arab population the preceding week.

Sudanese officials adamantly deny that refugees have been forced to relocate. "There is no siege. It is not true that the government was telling organizations to pull out of the area, and the areas are not besieged," said Ibrahim Hamid, Sudan's Humanitarian Affairs Minister. "Angry Arab tribesmen gathered in the area," he added. For whatever reason, 88 humanitarian aid workers had to be transferred.

Since then, UN officials have been on alert for refugees being sent back to the very areas from which they fled fearing for their lives. On the day after the close of negotiations granting humanitarian groups access to the camps, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an aid group which had up until that time been working to save refugees in the southern Darfur region, announced its decision to partially withdraw its aid. Spokespersons from the group cited large-scale government refusal to cooperate with their efforts. For example, on October 20, an attempt to stop the Sudanese government from forcing more refugees to relocate failed. Reports have continuously indicated that

this type of situation has been altogether too common in the past month.

Members of the UNHCR were reassigned positions in western Darfur, but if government attitudes do not soon change in accordance with recent agreements, there is a possibility that some groups will withdraw entirely. As Jean-Marie Fakouri, leader of the organization's aid to the region, explained, "It is extremely frustrating for our staff to be forced to sit idle."

Although the negotiations in Abuja are the most promising of recent events regarding the crisis, realistically they are not the catalyst needed for true change. Majzoub Khalifa, the governor of Khartoum and highest of the government officials who took part in the talks, seems to think otherwise. "We want to tell them that the resolution of Sudanese questions is in the hands of the Sudanese people, upon their consent and on their own will, without any foreign imposition," he said after returning from Nigeria. He has made a clear distinction between the "we" and the "them," the "Sudanese" and the "foreigners." He fails to acknowledge

that until the warring groups make the political agreements to be negotiated at an undesignated time in December, the situation in Darfur will remain the same. Khalifa did point out that the talks held in Abuja concluded nearly one week before the situation was to be addressed in Kenya by the UN Security Council. "This continent needs to prove we can change on our own," a Sudanese leader of a humanitarian group explained. Sudanese officials are not alone in their opposition to international aid. On October 18, African officials representing Libya, Egypt, Nigeria and Chad also adamantly expressed their "rejection of all foreign intervention in this purely African question."

As of yet, the Sudanese have demonstrated little more than a combination of incompetence and unwillingness to improve this situation. Perhaps the answer to this so-called "African question" is indeed to be found in the heart of Africa. If Sudan is able to unite with other African nations, the lives of Sudanese citizens as well as the country's reputation in the world community may be saved, renewing hopes for a stronger African continent.

The Right to Die

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By Yi Liu, II
Assistant Business Manager

Eons ago, God created the race of man as a transient line of beings "whose days are determined, [and whose] number of months is with God," (John 14:5). Every person is allocated an amount of time on Earth, and curbing or prolonging this time is an act against God, for only "He has the keys of...Death," (Revelation 1:8). With the advent of medical technology, comatose, paralyzed and terminally ill patients—otherwise dead—are resuscitated and kept artificially alive through purported "miracles." Some believe that because these tools are available, they should be used unconditionally, and that man should stop death regardless of a patient's pain and his deteriorating life condition.

With the cutting-edge resuscitation technology of today, however, doctors do not revive a person to life, but rather to the brink of life and death. Patients live in an intermediate world. Barbara Huttman, a registered nurse and health-care administrator, wrote an essay in 1983 for *Newsweek* about a patient she once took care of named Mac, who "had wasted away to a sixty-pound skeleton kept alive by liquid food poured down a tube, IV solutions dripped into his veins, and oxygen piped to a mask on his face." Mac wanted to die, and he begged everyday to Huttman to just "let it go... please, no more." It was not until months later—after fifty-two instances of resuscitation—that Huttman held "[his] hands in [her own]" and finally let him depart from this world. Is this the life that God endowed on mankind? Is this the life that should be sustained, straddling the border between life and death, until some merciful doctor decides to pull the oxygen flow?

It is commonly argued that because society possesses the technology needed to sustain life, doctors should use these on patients in all instances. While a patient who has a curable disease, recovery should be sought, the case of Charlotte Wyatt, whose recent case in London has revived an age-old "right to die" controversy, lies inside a plastic box attached to several feeding and breathing tubes. She suffers from serious heart, lung and kidney problems in addition to a premature brain, and under the normal course of nature would have died and entered a better place. Instead, she was forced to maintain this cruel life for four months, costing no joy and all pain.

A week before her first birthday in October, the British High Court has been unwilling to deny Wyatt a fourth chance at life. Since the fall of the 19th century, the legal system has been reluctant to allow parents and doctors to end the lives of their children. In 1993, the British High Court ruled in favor of the parents of a child named Victoria, who had a rare condition called "congenital deafness." The court ruled that the child's life should be ended, as it was in the child's best interests. This ruling will benefit all the parties concerned.

After all, sometimes, the best treatment is to receive none at all.

Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk writes, "We are not killing people or teaching people that they can kill themselves. We are simply saying that we do not have to maintain human life at all costs and that in certain extreme circumstances, it is permissible to let nature take its course. Letting someone die is not the same as making someone die." It is hard to say good-bye to a loved one, but clinging to a corpse in the living world is simply selfish. Learn to think of the patient's pain, and let go for the greater good.

By Elizabeth Sculley, I
Contributing Writer

Until a short time ago, all medical students were required to take the Hippocratic Oath: "I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but I will never use it to injure or wrong them... Above all, I must not play God." Unfortunately, many medical institutions have ended this requirement, and have filled today's hospitals with doctors and nurses who have not sworn to this basic medical statute.

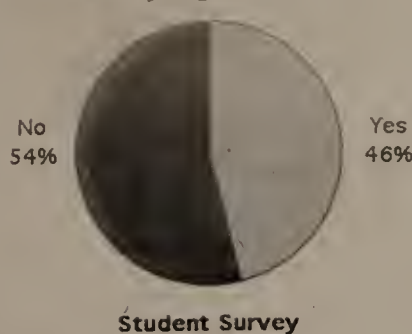
Charlotte Wyatt, a thirteen-month-old baby who weighed only one pound at birth, came into the world with multiple respiratory and cardiac problems. She has been revived three times in the past year and depends on a breathing machine to live. If Charlotte loses consciousness a fourth time, doctors will not resuscitate her again, arguing that such an action would go against their better judgment.

On October 7, the British High Court sealed this ruling. Doctors claim that Charlotte's life is so poor that it should not be extended. Deaf and with her brain damaged, Charlotte has never been outside of the hospital. The chance to leave one day, however, should not be barred from her. Her mind remains conscious and alert, evident by her father's description of how his young daughter clutches his finger when he holds her. He hopes that one day "she can have the feel of fresh air on her skin." However, because of the decision made by one judge and a group of doctors, Charlotte will never grow up, grow old, and see what the future of medical technology may bring.

In addition to the Charlotte Wyatt case, euthanasia is sadly becoming an accepted practice in many parts of the world today. In the Netherlands, it is now legal to suspend an individual's life on the basis that his physical condition is too poor. Recently, a three-day-old baby with *spina bifida*, a condition that affects the spinal column, was given a lethal injection at the request of his parents. Although children with *spina bifida* often have very full lives—attending school, marrying and starting families of their own—this baby was never given that opportunity.

As a culture, we should be appalled and frightened by these cases. "Thou shalt not kill" is not only a religious commandment but the foundation upon which our society is built. When man takes it upon himself, because of the number of law degrees and medical degrees he has earned, to decide who has the right to live and who does not, society is in grave danger. Babies who are chronically ill no longer have a chance to live for the positive. These practices make it so that there are no stop parents from ending the lives of children who are mentally or physically disabled who may require special attention and care. As human beings, we have the right to judge the quality of another being's life, and to continue to do so, our society will become dangerously unethical.

A Right to Die: Should doctors and judges decide?



Forum Question

A Right to Die: Should doctors and judges decide?



"No, I think it should be the patient's decision, unless they are in a coma; then the family should be allowed to decide." —Megan Pitts, I



"No, doctors should try everything to save them." —Lauren Makhholm, II



"No, this choice should be made by the person himself or by their loved ones." —Anita Lok, III



"No, because it's not their part to play God." —Melanie Mulerv, IV



"Yes, because if someone is suffering, doctors should be allowed to end their lives." —Gregory Hull, VI



"Yes. Doctors can tell if someone's suffering." —Gregory Hull, VI

Students First?

BY ANNEKE SCHWOB, II
STAFF WRITER

There is no question that Boston Latin is an extraordinary school. Whether due to its 369-year-old history, the brain-bending six years of rigorous academics required to attain a Latin School Diploma™, or just something in the water, Boston Latin pride is etched indelibly in the hearts and souls of all those who leave here for college and the great beyond, only to return a few years later as card-carrying members of the Boston Latin School Alumni Association (BLSA). This love of school is unusual, something found most often in those British public schools of high renown, those Etons and Harrows, and rarely, if at all, in America.

If the fact that Boston Latin, surely not so different in its setup and day-to-day management, is able to inspire such dedication seems surprising, even more amazing is the fact that this dedication often takes the form of not only hours of committed service to the school, but also extremely generous sums of money. (Is it coincidence that so many Boston Latin graduates do so well? The administration thinks not.) These donations lift Boston Latin far beyond the realm of most public schools, allowing us to put in place services and programs such as the Facing History and Ourselves class, the Keefe Library and Media Center, and countless scholarships—all of which are invaluable in helping current students both during their tenure at the school and after they graduate and pass into the 'real world' of colleges, jobs and the future.

No one could argue that these donations are generous in the extreme. Without the unflagging support of the alumni and the wholehearted fundraising efforts of the alumni and administration, Latin School would lose many of the programs and special perks that make it unique and raise it a tier above other Boston Public Schools. It would become just another high school, with only its longstanding legacy to set it apart.

And there's the rub: Latin School's long tradition does set it apart from other public schools in the country. However, it is important to remember that, as well as being America's longest running public school, Boston Latin is still a living, breathing, functioning school today. Among many famous graduates—Cotton Mather, Leonard Bernstein, and Sumner

Redstone—we have recent alumni and those still matriculating who are well on their way to making a name for themselves, even if they have not the means or the experience (or the sleep, for that matter) to do so quite yet.

So when we sell our school to others, whether or not actively seeking money, it is important to remember what we are selling. While no one would discount the value of tradition—and for Boston Latin, legacy is one of its most important traditions—the school's current students, and the legacy that they themselves will leave behind, are even more important. It is useless to overlook the needs of the present student body in eulogizing Latin School's long-standing traditions of excellence. Rather than speak of what had been accomplished, or what ought to be accomplished in order to maintain the reputation of bygone generations, we should speak instead of what can be accomplished for its own sake in this day and age. The goals of the Alumni Association should be structured around the needs of the current student body, and not around a desire to maintain or enrich the legacy of the school for personal reasons. Yes, the past is important, and the legacy is an indelible part of Boston Latin School. But without the future, the past is lost.

Vandalism in the Library

A message from the Student Council

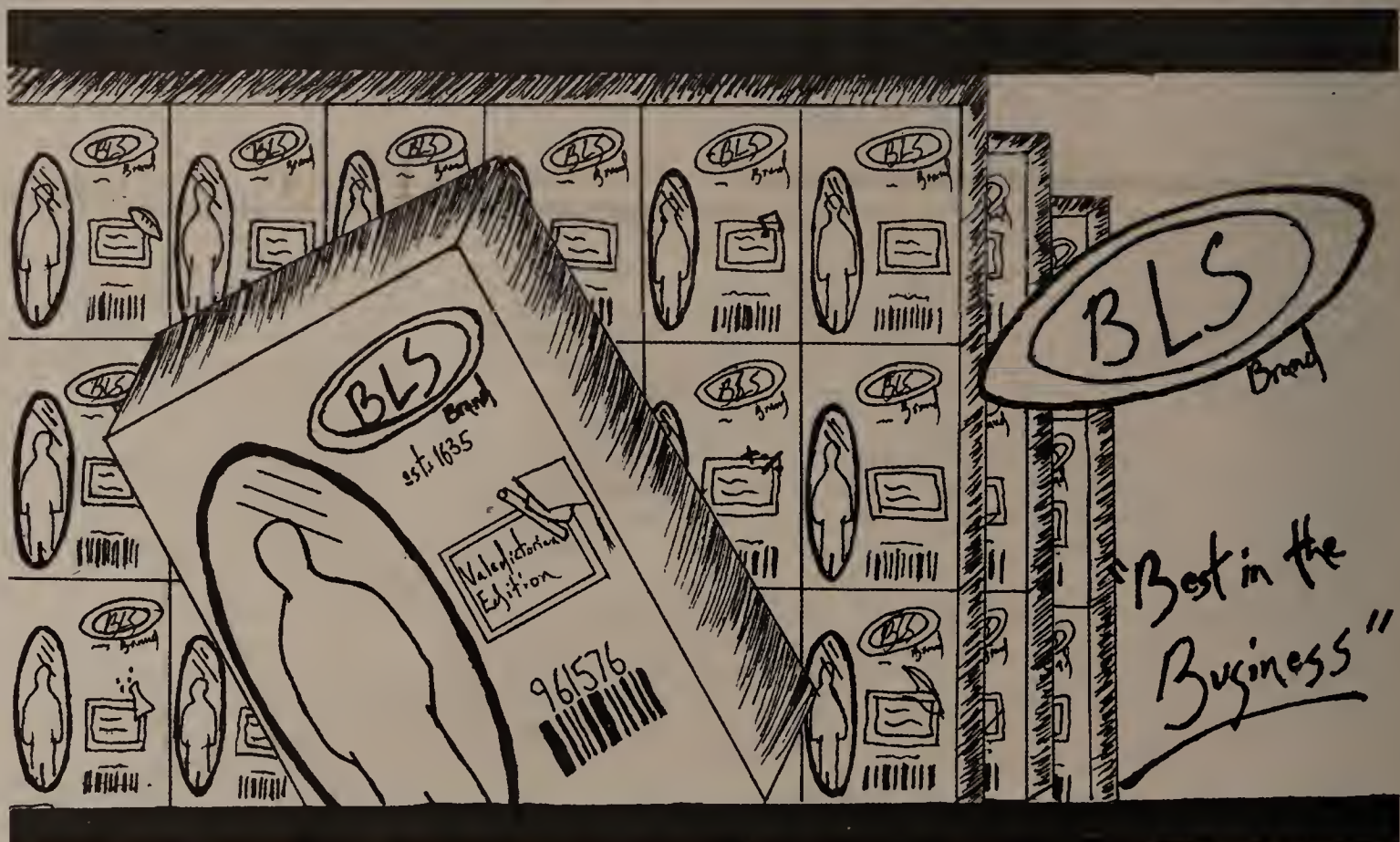
One of the most prominent assets of the Boston Latin School is our impressive Harry V. Keefe Library Media Center. It is said to be one of the greatest high school libraries in the nation and many returning alumni have expressed that even some college resource centers cannot match that of Boston Latin. As many know, we owe the establishment of this great library to the late Harry V. Keefe '39, who generously donated \$3 million to the Latin School in hopes of providing students with the best possible educational tools. In fact, on behalf of his legacy of promoting educational excellence, the Keefe Foundation annually donates money to our school to improve our library system.

It would seem reasonable that since it is so rare for high school students to have access to such a wonderful library, they would be grateful for these privileges. This assumption, however, is far from the truth. The librarians have brought it to the Student Council's attention that the vandalism of tables and chairs has become an increasingly severe problem. To the average student, who might accidentally "deface" school

property with a stray pen or ink stain, this issue does not seem significant. However, it is important to remember that these same tables and desks were given to us as gifts from an alumnus who did not have the same privileges as we do today. In addition, they were custom-made for our school and thus would be very difficult to replace. As it stands, the cost of repair is approximately \$500 per table.

More importantly, how would alumni feel if they were to visit the library and see their donations so blatantly disrespected? Would they still be as eager to make future contributions, knowing that they will only be destroyed? In order to ensure the continued quality of our school property, we as students must do our part. By recognizing and appreciating all the resources that are available to us, we are not only honoring the generosity of these alumni, but also respecting ourselves and our peers.

Students should remember that vandalism is considered a major infraction of the school rules. Any student who is found abusing the library resources will be heavily fined and will face the possibility of suspension.



CARTOON BY NICHOLAS DISTEFANO (1)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In Issue I of the *Argo*, Victoria Bartolome reported that Gospel Choir membership has shrunk from 85 to 30 people in the past two months ("Gospel Choir Attendance Dips to a New Low"). While it may be true that students have left because of their shock and disappointment at Mr. Simmons' departure, the article only brushed on the choral situation without capturing the entire scope of it. It was just an article about Gospel Choir attendance. However, there is more to it than that.

Instead of coming back to Boston Latin School this fall, Mr. Simmons stayed in Georgia to follow his dream. He is still a teacher, a conductor, and an active member of his church, involved in the passions which he has always held deep in his heart. During his four years here, Mr. Simmons touched the lives of many parents, teachers, and students. He spread his love for life and music

throughout the school, and continues to do so today in Georgia. No matter what we do, a little bit of Mr. Simmons will always be with us; his lessons, his smile, his influence remain deeply imbedded in the hearts of choir students. We can never be truly separated from him, even if there is a new conductor in place.

Mr. Charig came to the Boston Latin School in September to assume Mr. Simmons' previous responsibility of Concert Choir, Junior Choir, Gospel Choir and Show Choir. He has had an extremely difficult time with being thrown into a position formerly held by someone so loved by the student body. Many, in fact, have not even given him a chance to show whether he can do some good for the choirs. While this reluctance is due to our shock and disappointment at Mr. Simmons' departure, we should not allow these feelings to bar us from accepting our new instructor. Mr. Charig is doing his best and I, like

many others, think he is doing a pretty good job.

Concert Choir, for example, feels more like a class now than a study. Mr. Charig has taught us many new things, which has helped us develop into a better choir. We have practiced sight reading more often, learned how to count-sing (a way to keep the rhythm and notes when one is first learning a new piece of music), and have picked up on different vocal exercises which help with breathing and achieving a glorious sound. He has chosen more difficult music, too, with time signature changes and complex harmonies. Because of the high standards Mr. Charig has established, we have no doubt become a better choir. We know more and sound fantastic.

Concert Choir hasn't diminished in membership, but Gospel Choir has. It is a sad sight to see the music room so empty on Mondays with only 30 people instead of the former 85. While

Mr. Charig is a qualified conductor, Gospel Choir is not his forte. Gospel Choir was really Mr. Simmons's, after all: he "grew up with Gospel music," as Victoria wrote, "and brought the essence of [it] into [our school, along with] the dancing, attitude and emotion." Many came on Mondays to feel close to Mr. Simmons. His entire being was in the music, and especially Gospel music. Mr. Charig is different, however. He has asked us to help him and he is trying hard to make the choir the best it can be with only thirty members left.

The beginning of this school year was rough for many music students, but there is so much we can learn from Mr. Charig. He is not a bad conductor or teacher—in fact, he is a very good one.

He just isn't Mr. Simmons.
—Jessica Noseworthy, II

Jessica is a member of Gospel Choir, Show Choir, Concert Choir, and Hidden Voices.

All In The Family: Terrorism and...Perfume?

By QUEEN ARSEM O'MALLEY, V
STAFF WRITER

Since 9/11, rumors have circulated wildly about the attacks, Osama, and the rest of the bin Laden family. "Don't buy from Snapple," instructs one website. Boycott GE and Schweppes: the bin Ladens own stock in these companies and their profits help fund Osama's causes. Someone even wasted (God knows how long) figuring out how to fold a dollar bill so that it spelled "Osama" while demonstrating an origami-attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. After all this—the accounts, videos, and stories—how would you react if someone introduced himself to you as Yeslam bin Laden?

Of course, everyone (unless you're a hermit living underground in Northern Canada) has heard of Osama bin Laden, mastermind behind the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Yeslam is one of Osama's half-brothers. Like his 53 other siblings, he has been forced to share a sideline in Osama's limelight, bearing the burden of the bin Laden name without the terrorist character.

Yeslam, however, wants the world to know him for a different reason besides planes, Islamic terrorists, and the *jihad*.

He wants to be known for *perfume*.

That's right. Good old Yeslam is in contention with Paris and Milan, working to release a perfume line titled "Yeslam." He believes that people will buy his scent out of curiosity—and he is probably right. Before Osama became a household name, it was Yeslam's goal to pursue an "artistic agenda;" but in the aftermath of September 11, the bin Ladens were forced to scatter around the world in fear for their lives. Yeslam explains, "[our family] did not feel welcome anymore in the U.S. at that time. I want you to put yourself in their shoes...I had to defend myself. I understand that after September 11 there were lots of suspicion and that everybody wanted to check everything... nothing was ever found [on me]." All 54 siblings, many of whom did not know Osama well at all, were subject to abuse, discrimination and questioning. "It has become a name in a newspaper," Yeslam said of Osama. "The story has become ink on paper."

More significantly, this cultural emergence of a bin Laden clan member is a reminder of just how deeply family ties run, regardless of kin members' efforts to sever them. In most Americans' minds, anything remotely resembling the sound "bin Laden" and bearing resemblance to the "furry beard and turban" look is call for worry. We often forget

that "criminal" families such as the bin Ladens are still human, and that not all of their members are terrorists.

Muslims and Middle Eastern peoples have had to endure the blunt of a "terrorist profile" for two years. In a Scottish film released last summer entitled *Just a Kiss*, director Ken Loach handled



the tough hot potato of a Caucasian-Pakistani relationship that clashed with "family honor." His provoking opening scene of a Pakistani girl reading an essay on her "rejection of the West's definition of the East" and the subsequent jeering and bullying by her classmates leave an especially sour note on the audience's

mind – setting the perfect tone for the rest of the film.

But while the characters in *Just a Kiss* are fictitious, the situation detailed in the film is not. The West has always had a tendency to stereotype of the East – whether these characterizations are based on both fact or fiction. Yeslam's attempt to release a perfume line is both an effort to further his own artistic plans and, perhaps, to clear the stain that has tainted his family name.

As if following a global trend, Bosnian wartime leader and Europe's most wanted war criminal Radovan Karadzic has also taken similar steps towards achieving a "softer" spotlight. Having been on the run from authorities for eight years, Karadzic has recently published a romance novel titled *Miraculous Chronicles of the Night*. Karadzic has written at least three books while in hiding, including one of children's poetry. Can't you just imagine a suspected war criminal crouching in a hole somewhere in Bosnia writing children's poetry and a romance novel about a psychiatrist and his wife? Maybe he was bored? The romance is currently being promoted along with a novel written by former Yugoslav first lady Mirjana Markovic and her work, *Keep This Book*.

Ponder this while I'm off to Filene's to look for a sample of Yeslam's perfume. And, hey, there's a Barnes and Nobles nearby. Do you think Karadzic's book has been translated into English yet?

After Arafat— What Next?

By DANIELLA COLB, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The world's reaction to the death of Abdel-Raouf Arafat al-Qudwa al-Husseini, better known as Yasser Arafat, was as varied as it was intense. Palestine treated Arafat's death as an event of tremendous importance and monumental tragedy. Tears flooded Palestinian streets. Mournful cries echoed through the air for days. In a funeral service fit for a king, Palestinians tearfully bid goodbye to a man who had dedicated his life to their state.

However, Arafat was just as hated in Israel as he was loved in Palestine. Due to the countless terrorist attacks made at his command and his revolting acts of violence, his name is one that has sparked anger and fear among the Israelis for many years.

Yasser Arafat represented two different extremes in his lifetime. An ardent fighter for an independent Palestine, he founded the Al-Fatah, a group committed to obtaining full Palestinian independence. When the Palestinian Liberation organization (PLO) came into being in 1964, the Al-Fatah served as its chief military source, and in 1969, Arafat became its chairman. In 1996, he was appointed president of Palestinian Authority, promoting universal acceptance of the Palestinian aspiration to statehood. Our own president, George Bush (however repulsive it is for me to call him such) has now become the first leader to declare American acceptance of a Palestinian state—a shocking fact, as America is Israel's chief ally, and as a result, generally anti-Palestinian.

While fathering Palestinian nationalism, Arafat played an equally large role

in raising modern terrorism. The very name of Arafat leaves a bitter taste on the tongue of the Israeli nation. Famous for pioneering many repugnant terrorist tactics, Arafat used kidnapped children as tools for negotiation. In addition to this shameless act, Arafat pioneered many of the terrorist maneuvers that have since become commonplace, including hostage-taking, civilian massacres and suicide bombings. Because of his ruthlessly violent actions toward Israeli citizens, a deeply rooted hatred for Arafat exists among Jews worldwide.

I cannot exclude myself from these numbers—the savage attacks that Arafat made on Israel are absolutely inexcusable and paradoxical for a man so devoted to his own state's spirit of freedom. His involvement in the kidnapping and killing of Israeli children was nothing short of barbaric. Strangely though, Arafat was still a hero—probably the only one in the world ever to dangle kidnapped children in front of terrorists and to still win the Nobel Peace Prize.

As both Palestine and Israel look towards the future, great uncertainty remains. Not only was Yasser Arafat a man, but a representative of two extremes: a leader fighting vehemently for his own nation's independence, while just as vehemently opposing another's. Although he has left bright hopes for an independent Palestinian state, I shudder to think what role his influence may play in future massacres.

I do believe that a Palestinian state will rise from Arafat's ashes, but the blood of many Israeli men, women and children will be shed in the process. In a time of great political uncertainty for Palestine, it is unclear what will follow the grieving period.

Policy change doesn't change truth in India

By RADHIKA GARLAND, II
STAFF WRITER

On November 11, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a reduction of 20,000 troops in Kashmir, a disputed region between India and Pakistan long torn by violence. This announcement heralded a monumental policy change that moves the country a step closer to peace in Kashmir. It is a significant move by a government that has not reduced troops (now half a million strong in Kashmir alone) since the anti-Indian insurgency first began fifteen years ago.

Reaction to the prime minister's decision has thus far been mostly positive. The Pakistani government has long called for a withdrawal of troops in Kashmir, and local political leaders have released statements showing their support of India's decision. Prime Minister Singh, in particular, believes that the attempts made by the Indian government to "counter infiltration methods" and "to mobilize the support of the people in the war on terrorism" have been successful in its goal of improving the situation in Kashmir. "This is reflected in the increased tempo of economic activity, continuing increase in tourist arrivals and a general sense of security among the people," the statement said.

While recent testimony from the Indian prime minister and the president of the United States paints a rosy picture, it seems more likely that current atrocities will continue unabated. On November 15 and 16, multiple attacks on civilians occurred in both countries. Suspected militants killed six people in the Kashmiri village of Kawpoosa. The next day two militant snipers injured two and killed one in a cricket field in Srinagar, a Hindu city

in Kashmir. There have also been reports that an Indian Army officer raped a mother and her 10-year-old daughter Saturday, November 13.

Disputes between India and Pakistan have been pronounced since their independence. The Indian government has traditionally been Hindu-controlled, while the Pakistani government represents the interests of its mostly Muslim population. The violent history of Kashmir is attributed to the diversity of the region, where a Hindu minority lives alongside a primarily Muslim population. To only attribute the situation to religious differences, however, would miss an equally important factor. India and Pakistan are locked in a tremendous political struggle over Kashmir, a region that is economically and symbolically important to both countries.

The recent actions of the Indian government after the press release on the eleventh are inconsistent. India's Home Minister, Shivraj Patil, has failed to show that the "general sense of security" that his compatriot Singh sees in India is felt within the entire Indian government. Patil accused Kashmiri leaders of a conspiracy to bring Pakistani leaders closer to Kashmiri internal politics. Not surprisingly, the home minister's accusations did not please certain party leaders in Kashmir, and many responded angrily to the charges Patil levied against them.

The reduction is expected to continue, despite previous warnings that if terrorist attacks in were resumed the withdrawal would be reconsidered. The situation is especially important to the world community because both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers. It is crucial that the region be secure and peaceful to avoid a global catastrophe.

FORUM

The Red and Blue of It

*One nation, under purple, united against the Electoral College***BY YUCONG MA, II**
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

In the week immediately following the 2004 Presidential Election, the only thing red and blue on most people's minds was the electoral map. The Northeast and West Coast were decisive patches of blue, along with Minnesota and the Great Lakes region – sans Ohio. The rest of the United States remained a sea of red.

Derisive Democrats and bitter supporters of Senator John Kerry, the former Democratic candidate, have found a way to fight back against that crimson tide with criticism reverberating across the Internet, media channels and newspapers. Maps of North America labeled "The United States of Canada" and "Jesusland" have sprung up, along with communities like "New England Secession." Sectional lines seem to be more firmly delineated in America than ever. The blue states are not ready to give up quite yet, and until the next election in 2008, the issue of blue against red will rest foremost in liberal minds as a righteous battle of good versus evil.

The unhappy truth for liberal Democrats is that the blue states, even in New England, are not as blue as they would like them to be. These statistics have been reiterated time and again, but they merit further investigation: 51 percent for Bush, and 48 percent for Kerry. Yet the outcome of the election was not a truly sectionalized decision. All over the United States, electoral votes were decided by only thousands of votes, merely one or two percentage points. New Hampshire, with four small yet symbolic electoral votes, was on the verge of defecting to the Republican side when Kerry came through. States like Iowa and Nevada were firmly entrenched in the Republican Midwest, but proved to be highly unpredictable bumps for Bush on his way to retaining the White House, giving Kerry as many as 50 percent of the votes throughout Election Night. Bearing witness to this strange phenomenon, one curious voter asked this exact question: just how blue were the blue states, and

just how red were the red?

Motivated by this curiosity, he created what is now popularly referred to online as "The Purple States of America," a map on which states are colored medium purple if they went nearly 50/50, somewhat magenta if they were more Republican, or indigo if they were mostly Democratic. The result? An America that

the board, however, as many Americans falsely believe. The states of Maine and Nebraska have a different system for the distribution of electoral votes, where the candidate who wins the popular vote receives two electoral votes, and then the rest are allocated by individual state districts. Sounds like a fair system, does it not? This process speaks for the major-

House, but had this policy been in place in the election of 2000, President Bush would have received merely five votes for his 51 percent majority, with a loss of three votes, and consequentially, lost the bid for presidency.

The proposal sounded like an excellent idea for promoting equal representation and for giving a more accurate reflection of the general opinion. However, the citizens of Colorado were not in favor of breaking tradition, and with an overwhelming majority of 65 percent to 35 percent against the amendment, the state of Colorado dashed many hopes for a more reasonable electoral vote system.

People have lobbied to reform or simply abolish the Electoral College for over a century. Recent voices added to the protest including Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and the staff of the *New York Times*. Of course, there are benefits: no candidate is forced to waste millions of dollars in hopes of scavenging one more crucial percentage point. No one would chase after individual voters, despite the government's promise that "every vote counts."

Not exactly. Your vote counts, but only if your candidate happens to win. So, what if you're on the losing side? What does your vote count for? Not for very much at all. Today, eager yet misguided Democrats are encouraging Kerry sympathizers to spend fewer vacations in Florida, forego excursions to Louisiana come Mardi Gras and try winter skiing in Maine instead of Colorado, but liberal voters in states like Texas have reason to be indignant, and cause to sympathize with Republicans in areas like the West Coast. No matter whom you vote for, which party you are loyal to, even if you were a stubborn Nader supporter, it would be in your interest to lobby for a more direct, democratic and thorough system in lieu of the Electoral College. Thus, until the Electoral College is reformed to give a greater voice to the people, and correct old assumptions and sectional prejudices, we may have to stay out of the gray (or purple) shades of politics, and remain, as we have always been, red and blue.



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was, by and large, very violet indeed, a startling reminder to Americans that their individual states are not the Republican havens or Democratic strongholds that they may like to think they are.

Yet the real question is, what is responsible for this blue-and-red map of America post-November 2, which makes Democrats so bitter and blue voters in redneck states cry foul? The simple answer is a deeply resented and traditional voting system called the Electoral College. Based on the number of representatives per state in the two houses of Congress, the Electoral College is a winner-take-all system in 48 states. This winner-take-all system is not across

ity while also making sure that minority voices are not completely ignored. Colorado lawmakers apparently found this idea refreshing, and in the 2004 election, attempted Amendment 36, also known as Initiative 99. It was one of the new ideas that appeared on the state's ballot in the last election, which proposed a completely new way of distributing the state's nine electoral votes. Had it been approved this November, it would have required that its votes be divided between candidates based on their final percentage tally, effective immediately in the 2004 Presidential Election. Nine electoral votes pale in comparison to the 270 votes necessary to win the White

Stem Cells: What Happens Now?

BY FRANKLINE HO, I
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Is it justifiable to assassinate a dictator in order to save the lives of hundreds? Is it ethical to take a dying man, chop him up, and give his body parts to those who are more likely to live? These highly controversial questions serve as a foundation for the main debate surrounding stem cell research: the ethics of exchanging one life for another.

During the weeks leading up to the November election, presidential hopeful John Kerry and incumbent president George Bush debated the issue of stem cells tirelessly. While the latter advocated that research on embryonic stem cells should be restricted to previously developed samples, Kerry supported the creation of new and active stem cell lines in order to refine the techniques used in culturing and utilizing the cells. With Bush's recent victory hovering above the nation, however, the future for embryonic stem cell research has turned bleak.

Stem cells are significant because of their ability to transform into any type of cell particular to a specific bodily function. Embryonic stem cells have always been the

most important in these studies as they can transform into brain, nerve or eye cells, quickly curing many of the diseases and conditions that cripple millions of people. Great miracle cure, right? Close. The one drawback in harvesting embryonic stem cells is that in order to reap the benefits,



something must be destroyed in exchange: the embryo. The late Christopher Reeve, a quadriplegic, understood and sympathized with this research best and supported it tirelessly. He, among others, donated millions upon millions of dollars to this cause, but in spite of his advocacy, his efforts seem to have come to naught.

Research has advanced slowly in this area because many oppose the "perturbing" number of cells scientists have to sacrifice in order to conduct their studies. It does not seem like a big trade-off when one considers the benefits stem cell research promises – letting a diabetic eat

normally, returning a blind man's sight, or giving a paraplegic the strength to walk again. Those against this type of research argue, however, that every embryo bears the potential for a new life, and the destruction of even one is unethical, no matter how significant the benefits.

Bush is among this crowd and his policies have steered stem cell research away from potential expansion, instead allowing research to be done only on the 60 existing embryonic stem cell lines, some of which are dysfunctional. This number is nowhere near the amount required to cure the millions of Americans afflicted with

disease. Bush, who ironically approved federal funding for research in 2001, is now bringing the cultivation of cells to a virtual standstill.

Now, think for a moment. Embryos used in this procedure are usually taken from excess batches left over from artificial insemination procedures, preserved and stored away in a frozen state. Left in a freezer, these cells would eventually degrade unless they were used to create life or stem cells, so why not the latter? It is an unfortunate case, indeed, when people who are subjected to a living hell can be relieved of their suffering, but are not due to a quarrel over a small bundle of cells that are arguably not even alive.

Currently, hundreds of thousands of embryos exist that could be put to use if such sanctions on research did not exist. As these cells wither away into oblivion, millions of people are paying the escalating prices for medication, an expenditure that could be avoided with just one operation. It is an outrage that these people are made to suffer due to a debate on "ethics" – but is it ethical to allow people to die? Is it right to prolong a person's suffering in exchange for next to nothing?

The answer is quite clearly no.



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Stereotyping Foreign Films in Hollywood

By VICTORIA BARTOLOME, I, EDWARD CHIU, I, & QINGNI LIN, I

Many films are imported into Hollywood, but most usually do not make big splashes at the box office. There are only a handful of films that appeal to American moviegoers. The only successful foreign films that do manage to cause a ripple seem to be those with stereotypical cultural identities applied to by mainstream America.

Over the past four years, there has been a continuous stream of Chinese martial arts films appearing in the American box office. Since the release of *The Matrix* in 1999, the public seems to be attracted to a new depiction of martial arts—traditional weapons and dress with moves that defy gravity.

The technological breakthrough of traditional martial arts films burst into color in Ang Lee's premier of what has now become a high standard for films of its category, *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* (2000). The pioneer film received raving

reviews from martial arts aficionados and accredited film critics. Images of swords swinging over a beautifully set terrain, twisting fighters skimming over the surface of rivers, a profound story of unrequited love played out with great emotional depth by rising actors Chow Yun Fat and Michelle Yeow captured the imagination of the American audience. In many ways, *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* broke language barriers and for the first time, American audiences were able to admire the performances by the actors as well as the fighting.

As *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* crossed the threshold of America, it left the market wide open for imitators of the new genre of martial arts movies. When *Hero*, directed by Zhang Yimou opened in 2004, it received the same reviews of brilliant artistry, great choreography, and

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HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS, HERO AND CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN TIGER HAVE HIT MAINSTREAM HOLLYWOOD LIKE A FLURRY OF KICKS

Peter Pan Youth Movement

By SILVANA VIVAS, V
STAFF WRITER

Angry, evil pirates with missing body parts. Unhappy little kids who do not want to grow up. Flying overgrown kids who dwell in Neverland. Is this Michael Jackson's world? Close, but no cigar. It's actually Ms. Christina Crewdson's *Peter Pan*.

With its twists, including some references to boy bands and eBay, this theatrical gala is sure to transport everyone to a modern Neverland. For the play, Ms. Crewdson chose to hold auditions for students in classes VI through III. As she says, "it's a fun version with lots of humor, and it allows you to have a big cast. I chose it because it has fun characters for the actors to portray."

Another thing you can expect is action-packed scenes featuring chases, sword fighting and flying. Jacob Meister (V) nabbed the part of Peter Pan, and remarked that his favorite scene is an intense fencing scene with Captain Hook, played by Kathleen Pierre (V). According to Pierre, "it's not hard to fence. It's remembering the choreography that's the hard part."

What about the flying? "I've been

sworn to secrecy," says Meister with a sly smile, "you have to see it to find out."

By no means should the younger cast be forgotten for, after all, they are

ing part in the school-wide, epic-size production are Courtney Smith (V) as Wendy and Julia Yasek (V) as Tinkerbell.



THE LOST BOYS OF PETER PAN REHEARSING

BY JONATHAN LARA (III)

the ones who bring personality to the play. Among many others who are tak-

Each cast member decided to take part for different reasons. Meister, for

example, says, "I love theater and acting, and I feel I can become a different persona on stage. However, I was shocked that I got the part!" Kathleen, on the other hand, had something else in mind: "I wanted to try out to see how I would do in a play, and so I could see if I might be able to consider this as a career." As for her thoughts on Jacob as Peter Pan, "[Jacob] is good at it; he seems to fit the character with his attitude."

One thing the audience doesn't have to worry about is the possibility of mess-ups during the performances, at least not on Jacob's behalf. "I'm not nervous because I've been in plays before so I feel prepared and I'm looking forward to it. I feel that we are working hard at rehearsals," says the starring actor.

"It's a very fun, high-energy show that really showcases the talented actors at Boston Latin School. People should come to support them in all the hard work they have done in rehearsals," says Ms. Crewdson.

Peter Pan will be playing on January 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Boston Latin School Auditorium. At only \$5.00 for students and seniors, and \$7.00 for adults, this play will provide captivating entertainment for all ages.

A & E

Rated 'I' for Illegal

BY OLIVIA PAQUETTE, II
STAFF WRITER

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) announced earlier this month, more than a year after the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) started suing illegal music sharers, that it would begin to file lawsuits against people who share illegal copies of movies online.

According to several MPAA executives, up to 230 charges may be filed. The lawsuits will target those who swap movie files on so-called "peer-to-peer" networks such as KaZaA and Gnutella. Illegal files can be defined as copies of movies still in theaters, filmed on a camcorder and then shared online. Copyright law guarantees a movie studio up to \$30,000 in damages per each illegally downloaded film.

The MPAA says that each suit will focus on only a few movie titles, although targeted individuals will be those who "had many more film titles in their shared directory." In order to track down these people, the MPAA is relying on the help of specialists. By connecting to peer-to-peer networks and following the same process as anyone wishing to download a movie, the specialists can obtain information about users sharing digital movie files, including their IP (Internet Protocol) address and, if available, their screen names. This information, obtained using a "simple software program," can be accessed by "any relatively experienced user" on a peer-to-peer

network, maintains the MPAA.

According to the MPAA, the number of movies swapped illegally on peer-to-peer networks ranges from 115,571 to 148,591 every day. The estimated loss to the United States movie industry worldwide due to piracy in 2003

YOU CAN CLICK BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

I ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING
Inappropriate for All Ages



was somewhere between \$3 billion and \$4 billion.

Over a year before the MPAA's recent measures against movie downloading, the music industry began a similar campaign. In September 2003, the RIAA began filing lawsuits against people who trade digital music files illegally online. A reported 6,191 individuals have since been sued.

Due to the difference in size between music files and movie files, the extent of illegal downloading in the two types of media differs greatly. Compared

to the millions of people sharing music illegally, the numbers for movie downloading seem insignificant. Most songs take only several minutes to download, while downloading a movie may take up to 18 hours, according to the MPAA. With newer technology, however, downloading movies will be much easier and quicker. For example, a high-speed internet connection may reduce the downloading time for a movie to only two hours.

Fear that the spread of high-speed connections and other technology could increase the number of illegally downloaded movies helped prompt the MPAA's urgent response to the problem. "The longer we waited, the worse it would be," said MPAA president Dan Glickman at a news conference on November 5. With new lawsuits and an advertisement campaign, including posters which "rate" illegal downloading of movies as "I: Inappropriate for All Ages", the movie industry hopes to defeat what Glickman calls the "greatest threat to the economic basis of movie-making in its 110-year history."

Another possible solution to the problem of illegal downloading, in addition to the current campaign, would be to create a way for consumers to pay for and legally download movies. This system would resemble online music stores such as that of Apple's iTunes. Although it is unclear whether the popularity of such stores has had significant impact on online music downloading, Glickman hopes that similar measures in the movie industry will help reduce piracy.

BLS Rapper Releases CD

BY ERIN SILVA, I
STAFF WRITER

People simply can't ignore the constant beatboxing and freestyling coming from senior Dan Smith's direction. At his locker, in class, in the hall—Dan Smith is a walking rhythm machine. But as hip-hop artist Supraliminal, Dan has once again proven his talent.

What sets Supraliminal apart from many young hip-hop artists is the quality of his music. Many kids try to make beats that end up sounding like they were made on a toy keyboard—not so for Supra. But what many true fans know is that the best music is underground. Supraliminal says he can relate the most to Atmosphere, whom he lists as one of his greatest influences. Supraliminal's style is for those who appreciate real hip-hop. His lyrics are expressive and meaningful, unlike those in mainstream hip-hop, with which

many people are most familiar.

Supraliminal's passion for hip-hop started when he began beatboxing in freestyle circles. He began writing lyrics two years ago while beatboxing for SY-Mulantz, a trio made up of Louis Harris (I), Khaatim Sultan (I), and Yambo Barrett and has been writing lyrics ever since. He started recording tracks for *Methods of Expression* last year, which he finished this past summer.

Supraliminal's influences can be heard in his voice, which can be compared to Tupac, Eminem and Talib Kweli. He made the beat for *Stuck* with influences from Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven*. The ability to stay true to such different genres of music is a difficult task but Supraliminal seems to have no problems.

Also appearing on the album are Boston-based hip-hop artists Korona, Rhetoric and Diatribe of Poemetrics. Supraliminal looks up to them just as

much as his own influences.

Tracks on the *Methods of Expression* range from the introspective *Floatin' Atop the Flood*, Supra's favorite, to a live recording of his infamous beatboxing. He also speaks about his passion for music in most of the songs, especially in aptly titled *Passion* and *Methods of Expression*. On *If You Wit Me* he addresses the shallowness of commercial hip-hop. For any Lord of the Rings fans, *The Uprising* featuring Korona and Rhetoric of Poemetrics includes a beat with something familiar. *Stuck* displays Supraliminal's singing ability, which many of us have seen in Dan's participation in Wolftones and Concert Choir. His voice works well in the songs and provides some diversity for the tracks.

Supraliminal's debut album, *Methods of Expression*, sold 100 copies in its first three days. At \$5 a CD, it pays for itself with every one of its thirteen tracks.

Welcome to San Andreas

BY RYAN DORITY, I
& JOHNSON TRAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & STAFF WRITER

Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas

Publisher: Rockstar Games

Developer: Rockstar North

Genre: Third-Person Action/Adventure

Available on: PS2

Gameplay: 10/10

Graphics: 9/10

Sound: 9.5/10

Controls: 9.5/10

Fun Factor: 10/10

For *Grand Theft Auto* fanatics who think that the first two games were a breeze to finish, they will find *Grand Theft*

Auto San Andreas much more difficult. As typical for the *GTA* series, in this third installment, players will start as C.J., who comes back to his childhood neighborhood Los Santos to pay respects to his recently deceased mother. Forget playing an easy, introductory stage first, though, because players will have to out-hustle armed gang members to Los Santos with only a bike for transportation. Not to give away the whole plot with specifics, but missions this time around are varied and much more difficult than the accustomed shoot-them-up to stealing and running, or even acquiring girlfriends for respect and reputation. If getting money in *Vice City* was hard, it's nearly impossible in *San Andreas*. From robbing to controlling

gangs, there's barely enough to get fire-arms, let alone eat, clean or add on to the cool rides. New to the *GTA* series is the *Sims*-like rating system, where respect is the basis of rewards for completing many missions, time and practice leads to better driving and running abilities, and weapons experience makes for better aiming and reloading, crucial for surviving the good ole' gun battles.

Nothing has changed with the ease of the controls for *San Andreas*, as veterans of *GTA* will find it a breeze and newbies will get used to it within the hour, max. The handling of cars has improved, and driving has a more realistic feel now that

GTA: SAN ANDREAS
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Coming to an MFA near you...

This fall and winter, seven exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts depart in different directions to explore various aspects of fact and fantasy, personal experience and public appearance.

Art Deco: 1910-1939

This exhibit explores a style that began in France before World War II and was widely popularized after the 1925 Paris Exhibition. Pieces include everything from jewelry and furniture to clothing and dishes, showing the wide influence of the Art Deco style.

High Style and Hoop Skirts: 1850s Fashion

Imagine an era in which women's skirts grew wider every year, and day clothing was changed several times a day. *High Style and Hoop Skirts* offers a rare look into the style and technology, which influenced how women dressed during the nineteenth century. This exhibit displays models wearing day gowns and evening gowns, complete with fans, necklaces, flowers and hair wreaths.

Cerith Wyn Evans

Cerith Wyn Evans, born in 1958 in Wales, explores imagination and transformation through color, light and space. Rooms contain anything from huge spoon-like mirrors to chandeliers, which flash, in Morse code, portions of different literary, philosophical, and scientific texts chosen by the artist. This exhibit challenges the viewer to explore the meaning behind Evans' singular artwork, both on an abstract and a personal level.

Josef Sudek: Poet with a Camera

Josef Sudek (1896-1976), a Czech photographer, was known in his lifetime as the "poet of Prague." Although he lost an arm fighting in World War I, he worked from the 1920s through the 1950s, capturing images of landmarks in his native Prague. Following World War II, Sudek began to focus more on personal subjects and haunting still-lives.

Art and Artifice: Meiji-Era Travel Photography

As Japan strived to modernize in the late 1800s, American and European tourists gained interest in the country, wishing to discover the exotic "Old Japan." Most of the photographs from this era were taken by professional photographers, and then sold to tourists in decorative albums as souvenirs. The photographs in this exhibit are accompanied by excerpts from travel guides and journals of the time, allowing the viewer to see Japan through the eyes of a tourist.

Lethal Elegance:

The Art of Samurai Sword Fittings

Originally used for practical purposes, the various fittings on samurai swords, including parts of the hilt and scabbard, became a work of art on their own. Both gold and silver inlays and chiseling were used to decorate the fittings with images of plants, animals, and scenes from daily life. A sword in the center of the exhibit's display shows how all the parts fit together.

Pursuits of Power: Falconry and the Samurai, 1600-1900

This upcoming exhibit opens December 17 in the Japanese Paintings Gallery. It focuses on an interesting and little-known historical tradition: the practice of falconry among samurai in seventeenth-century Japan. Falconry, a method of hunting using a trained bird, enabled the samurai to put their physical skills to use during the peace of the 1600s.

Compiled by Olivia Paquette, II.

Martial Arts: Chop, Kick, Repeat

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spectacular ballet fight scenes. Unlike *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*, however, Hero's story line is rather complex, heralding back to the time of warring states in the third century BCE. Historically, Hero has had more meaning to the Chinese audience than the American one, whose film-going appetite is piqued for martial arts combat. As original Chinese martial arts films become more and more blockbuster-like, their intellectual value seems to take a backseat to the fighting.

House of Flying Daggers, set to release on December 3, is the latest movie of its ilk to hit the big screen. Directed by Zhang Yimou, it follows the "formulaic approach" to martial arts films. The plot is somewhat unrealistic, focusing largely on the tragic three-way love triangle

between the suspected blind dancer Mei (Zhang Ziyi), police chief Leo (Andy Lau) and his young officer Jin (Takeshi Kaneshiro). With an overly sentimental plot and awe inspiring technological effects, *House of Flying Daggers* is a highly colorful imitation of its predecessors *Hero* and *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*.

The root of the oriental fighting stereotype in Chinese films is planted in films that use a more genuine depiction of martial arts. Bruce Lee was the first to bring the martial arts scene to America with his movies, *Fist of Fury* (1972) and *Enter the Dragon* (1973), attracting the American audience with a flashy style of hand-to-hand combat. Jackie Chan had smaller roles in these films and became known for his comedic kung fu stunts. His breakthrough to stardom came when

he began taking roles in American films such as *Rush Hour* (1998). Jet Li caught American attention with his *Fist of Legend* (1997) and his *Once Upon a Time in China* series. Hollywood soon embraced Jet Li in action movies like *Romeo Must Die* (2002) and *Kiss of the Dragon* (2001). These actors undoubtedly revolutionized action films and will always hold the title of being the "fathers" of martial arts films.

As the movies of the modern day fly past the traditional martial arts films of Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan, the popularity of these movies in the United States calls into question their intended audience. Some critics argued that these films serve to feed the imagination of the West with stereotypical concepts of the Far East. "[*Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*] is a kind of a dream of China, a

China that probably never existed," Ang Lee admitted. Indeed, after the film's release, earnest comments of "Wow, could Chinese people really fly like that back then?" became rather irksome to Asian-Americans.

The triumph of bringing Chinese films into mainstream America also has setbacks in that they have hampered the chances of any other types of Chinese films making their way onto the American big screen. There has yet to be any Chinese comedies or dramas that portray the different facets of Chinese culture in theaters. It seems as though the U.S. movie industry only takes interest in martial arts films from China because its something they can't quite duplicate. With that said, *House of Flying Daggers* is nothing more than another beautifully created stereotypical imported film.

A BLS Production Goes Idol

BY DANIELA HUYNH, I
& YUCONG MA, II
STAFF WRITER & ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

In the third week of September, Dominic French (II) and Andrew Slotnick (I) launched the *BLS Idol* competition in hopes of raising money for the Fine Arts Department. It has been two months and so far, the number of competitors has narrowed down from the original 25 artists to an elite 12. These talented vocalists represent Classes I, II, IV, V and VI, performing everything from classic love songs like "Killing Me Softly" by the Fugees to musical numbers such as "I Dream to Dream" from *Les Miserables*.

A great deal has been done within the two months since *BLS Idol* has taken off, but this opportunity to showcase talent at Boston Latin has not been utilized to its full potential. Neither contestants nor judges are pleased with the fact that the scheduling for the recording sessions at the BLSTV studio has been very uncoordinated throughout the competition. Lisa Zhang (V) comments, "[the sessions] are always being cancelled." Also, it seems that each recording session is filled with

complications. Sometimes the contestants fail to show up—probably due to the lack of communication between the contestants and the producers—and other times, technical difficulties overrun the recording studio.

During the second round of performances, the piano, which was placed in a corner of the room, drowned out the singers' voices. This was a major problem since *BLS Idol* is a competition based on the singing ability of each contestant, not the piano-playing skills of the accompaniment. *BLS Idol* ran into another problem caused by a shortage of blank tapes to record the singers' performances and the judges' critiques. Instead of appearing at every recording session, the judges rotate between Mr. Bill Harper, Mr. Paul Pitts, Mr. Christopher Charig, Dr. George Carroll, Mr. Ricardo Slevira, and sometimes even Latin School students.

To give *BLS Idol* due credit, however, production has not been a complete dud. Everyone involved in the show seems to

have a knack for solving problems quickly and getting the production back on its feet after numerous setbacks. French and Slotnick should be commended for their efforts to keep *BLS Idol* alive. Their dif-



BY YUCONG MA (II)

ficulties are better understood when one considers that "they're doing it for the first time," according to Andrew LeGendre (II), who runs BLSTV. Although the production lacks organization, the talent of the performers compensates for this defect. Like Brittany Sybertz (II), many

have high hopes for "making it to the top and singing in front of the school." Louis Frank (I) is also optimistic and inspired to compete because "[I want people to] appreciate the music I'm singing." At the same time, Slotnick recognizes that "it really takes a lot to even get up there" and he is "impressed with every [contestant] even if he or she were not at their best."

Right now, *BLS Idol* auditions are being aired on BLSTV, Channel 27, during homeroom, and students can vote on performers. Although voting preparations are still in the works, many students are enjoying the daily broadcasts, which, according to Leah Skahen (I), are a "great snapshot of how the process [of auditions] went." The final show for this production is scheduled for January 10, so the contestants have little over a month to tune up their vocal cords. *BLS Idol* has an even shorter time to clean up its act and get the show on the road. But as the song goes, "anything is possible, possible, when you believe in it."

Francesca Morency: Diva of the Stage

Arts Spotlight
by Megan Pitts, I

You may know her as a singer because you've seen her perform in everything from Show Choir, Wolfettes, and Jazz Ensemble in the seasonal school concerts to a stunning solo act at the ASIA sing off. She also sings in many of her classes, sometimes for extra credit, other times just for fun.

"I was singing before I could speak," Francesca told me as I began to laugh hysterically at her. "No, I'm serious, really," she insisted. She said her parents told her that she used to mimic parts of the old Pepsi commercial while still in her playpen. At the age of four, she began singing in her church choir, yet she admits that she was somewhat clueless about singing then.

In the sixth grade, Francesca decided to take tap and jazz dance lessons, which she continued until the eighth grade. While still participating in her church choir, she joined her school's chorus in the sixth grade, and upon entering Boston Latin School, she began to explore new forms of art, as well.

Hopelessly lost in the new art wing



COURTESY OF FRANCESCA MORENCY

on her first week of school, Francesca, a freshman, stumbled upon auditions for *You Can't Take It With You* and decided to try something new. She ended up getting the part of Rheba, and later that year pursued acting once again in the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* in the role of Chif-

fon. That same year, she also won awards for hair and make-up artistry for the cast of *T.V.* As a sophomore, Francesca was selected as the hair and make-up designer for the cast of *The Dining Room*.

Later in her second year at Boston Latin, Francesca shifted her focus back to singing, after having been accepted into Show Choir, Wolfettes, and Concert Choir. She decided that she would only join Show Choir and the Wolfettes in fear of not being able to fully dedicate herself to all three. This was also the year in which she was invited to join Jazz Ensemble as a soloist where she remained a member until it disbanded last year. She is still a member of Wolfettes and Show Choir.

Currently, Francesca's singing talents may be heard in the basement outside of the Latin School TV studio, where she is warming up for the *BLS Idol* competition in which she hopes to gain a spot in the final show. So far, she has been through two rounds of auditions, for which she has sung Whitney Houston's "The Greatest Love of All" and Leanne Rhymes' "How Do I Live."

Francesca is hardworking at every endeavor she chooses to pursue, and in fact, she plans to continue through many more years of school on her way to becoming a pediatrician.

She says, "I want to do two of the greatest things in life: help the world and entertain the world at the same time." She tells me, however, "Even though music and science hold an equal place in my heart, I would rather spend the rest of my life singing on a stage than doing anything else in the world."

Clearly, music is extremely important to Francesca, and everyday she strives to improve her singing ability in many ways, including receiving private vocal lessons. However, this Morency has a lot more up her sleeve than just singing for fun. Uninterested in the excessive publicity often associated with mainstream stars, she wishes to combine her love for singing with her love for being on stage, someday having a chance to sing on Broadway.

It may not be long until we see the name "Francesca Morency" in lights. Keep your eyes open. You never know!

Nothing Better Than Pho

By JOHNSON TRAN, I
& BURTON SHEN, I
STAFF WRITERS

Décor: 10/10
Quality: 9/10
Cost: 6/10
Service: 5/10
Overall: 7/10

Located at the heart of Coolidge Corner, Pho Lemongrass is a quaint yet modern Vietnamese restaurant, with an eye-catching appearance. Upon entering, the professional aura and the traditional pieces of artwork are overwhelmingly elegant. Prepared waiters are neatly dressed in blue shirts and ties. At first sight, the restaurant is immaculate and provides an aesthetic and comfortable environment for dining.

The menu provides a wide variety of selections along with house specials. For starters, the Lemongrass Stars (\$4.50) and Tofu Triangles (\$4.25) are the choice appetizers. The Lemongrass Stars are a blend of ground chicken, carrots and ginger wrapped in a fried wonton shell. Accompanied with a sweet plum sauce, much like duck sauce, it provides an essential condiment for the bland, tasteless shell and mildly flavored filling of the Stars. The Tofu Triangles are concocted with a disappointing filling of shrimp and pork, and is soggy than the Stars. After several minutes, the moist tofu blends with its crusty outer layer creating a rubbery texture. The fish sauce that accompanies the dish however, also compliments the taste of the tofu.

The Lemongrass Chicken (\$6.25) is a house special, boasting a large leg

of chicken, fried golden and crispy on the outside, yet juicy and tender with an exceptional lemongrass flavor on the inside. The amount of rice is limited and not enough to accompany the chicken. As with the appetizers, a small cup of fish sauce accompanies the dish to provide additional flavor.



BY QINGNI LIN (I)

The Grilled Pork and Shrimp Bun (\$8.25) is a sweet dish of vermicelli, vegetables and meat. The pork is soft, although slightly oily. While the shrimp is well cooked and tender, the portion is small. The noodles, which make up the majority of the bowl, have a bland taste that requires fish sauce for flavor. This dish is a bit expensive for its components, with an overwhelming amount of vermicelli lacking meat.

The entrees take much too long to arrive and overall, the service is less than spectacular. Although sharply dressed, waiters often stand around as if modeling. They do not come to check the condition of customers, making their presence rather disquieting for casual dining in an otherwise cozy and

aroma. Given the size of the Satay, there is a lack of condiments. While other restaurants provide as many as six different types of sauce to liven up the bowl, Pho Lemongrass provides only three, two of which are variations of hot sauce. Hoisin sauce is the most notable condiment missing. The Pho Satay, compared to the substandard vermicelli, is distinguished in taste.

For drinks and desserts, there is the Vietnamese Ice Café (\$2.75), a blend of ice, coffee and sweetened condensed milk. Slightly caffeinated and dashed with a generous amount of milk, this Vietnamese version of iced coffee does not compliment the entrees; its aftertaste lingers throughout the meal. The Rainbow on Ice (\$3.95) is a sweet coconut drink mixed with sweet beans and Jell-O, topped with ice shavings. This interesting concoction serves well as both a dessert and a drink.

Pho Lemongrass has a comfortable environment appropriate for enjoying the variety of foods in Vietnamese cuisine, but be prepared to pay for the luxury. While being modern in quality and price, Pho Lemongrass offers more than just the typical pho such as entrees ranging from rice plates to vermicelli to main courses and house specials. To experience modern Vietnamese cuisine, stop by Pho Lemongrass, but just prepare to pay a little more than the norm.

Pho Lemongrass
239 Harvard St.
Brookline, MA 02445
(617) 731-8600

Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas Raises the Roof

» GTA: SAN ANDREAS
continued from page 10

each vehicle has its own physics. Shooting is up a notch, as locking enemies with R1 and toggling them with L2 and R2 is quicker and more efficient. No longer will the aiming cursor lock

greater accuracy in killing their targets and progressing in their missions.

One of the very few issues of the GTA Trilogy has been its graphics, which are unstable and choppy in comparison to those of Final Fantasy and Splinter Cell, both of which boasted

widespread scenic area across the three cities of Los Santos, San Fierro, and Las Venturas in this GTA, the viewing screen is more conspicuous, more detailed, and most importantly, more accurate. Also, the presence of rainy days and fog waves in the scorching hot atmosphere adds to the new effects in the graphics. There may be a possibility of running into blurry graphics driving at full speed, but it doesn't matter, what with the loading times lasting mere seconds, even with a frequently used PS2.

Grand Theft Auto San Andreas is, without a doubt, a must have. The uniqueness in its gameplay and storyline is definitely worth \$50. You don't need to be a video game buff to master any GTA game, and this episode is no exception.

With the celebrity-packed voiceovers provided by Samuel L. Jackson, Chris Penn, Charlie Murphy of The Dave Chappelle Show, Ice T, James Woods, and up and coming rapper Young Maylay as the voice of C.J., San Andreas stands second to none. Stone Temple Pilots, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Guns 'N Roses, and Boyz II Men lead the fun-filled radio stations that blare while C.J. gets into his ride.

For the 1990s ghettos' experience, a theatrical storyline, and just the most in-depth game ever made, every gamer must get Grand Theft Auto San Andreas now!



COURTESY OF GAMEPRO.COM

on dead enemies, saving a lot of time and health. And the most satisfying improve in this game is the ability to aim at anything, with the use of the right analog stick, R3. Now, players can have

stunningly precise graphics that were in essence lifelike. San Andreas, although flawed in graphics because of PS2's capability, has enough features to be considered great. Because of a more

Director of Picasso Speaks About Play

By VICTORIA BARTOLOME, I
STAFF WRITER

An upcoming event in the arts department that many are looking forward to is the presentation of the fall production from the BLS Drama Club. This year, the play is called *Picasso* and will be directed by Joe Gels (I). Not much is known about the play so far, so we interviewed Joe to give us a little sneak peek on what's to come.

Q: So, Joe, can you give us a little background on the play? What is it about? A: Well, the play is about the life of Pablo Picasso, the famous Spanish painter. It's a biographical play that follows his life from his childhood to his death. It's a very interesting story, and I think it will be a great play to see. Q: What is the main theme of the play? A: The main theme of the play is the power of art and the human spirit. It's about how art can change the world and how the human spirit can overcome adversity. Q: What is the most challenging part of the play? A: The most challenging part of the play is the research. I had to read a lot of books and articles about Picasso to make sure the play was as accurate as possible. Q: What is the most rewarding part of the play? A: The most rewarding part of the play is the feedback from the audience. I love to hear what they think of the play and how they feel about it. Q: What is the most interesting part of the play? A: The most interesting part of the play is the story of Picasso's relationship with his father. It's a very complex relationship, and it's a great story to tell. Q: What is the most memorable part of the play? A: The most memorable part of the play is the final scene. It's a very powerful scene, and it's a great way to end the play. Q: What is the most fun part of the play? A: The most fun part of the play is the costumes. I love to wear the costumes, and I think the audience will love to see them. Q: What is the most difficult part of the play? A: The most difficult part of the play is the timing. It's a very tight script, and it's a challenge to make sure everything is timed perfectly. Q: What is the most enjoyable part of the play? A: The most enjoyable part of the play is the acting. I love to act, and I think the audience will love to see me. Q: What is the most interesting part of the play? A: The most interesting part of the play is the story of Picasso's relationship with his father. It's a very complex relationship, and it's a great story to tell. Q: What is the most memorable part of the play? A: The most memorable part of the play is the final scene. It's a very powerful scene, and it's a great way to end the play. Q: What is the most fun part of the play? A: The most fun part of the play is the costumes. I love to wear the costumes, and I think the audience will love to see them. Q: What is the most difficult part of the play? A: The most difficult part of the play is the timing. It's a very tight script, and it's a challenge to make sure everything is timed perfectly. Q: What is the most enjoyable part of the play? A: The most enjoyable part of the play is the acting. I love to act, and I think the audience will love to see me.

Q: When is the play this year and what would you tell people about it to make them come? A: It's going to be on December 3, 4, and 5 this year and people should come because it's going to be very funny. It should be lots of fun.

SPORTS

NCAA Football Provides Suprises

By THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Every season brings surprises, Heisman hopefuls, and upsets. This year is no different. An elite freshman class led by Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson has been taking the country by storm and has even brought talks of a freshman winning the notorious Heisman trophy. The waning season also had its fair share of upsets that had dropped the jaws of many and left fans questioning "how?" The University of North Carolina, known for its basketball and women's soccer talent, shocked the NCAA football world by beating the high-ranking University of Miami. In a season that has brought on the emergence of schools like California and Wisconsin onto the national stage, others like Boston College have made a statement by moving up in their division and in the Bowl Championship Series ratings. With the powerhouses Southern California and Oklahoma still charging, there is heavy competition in all conferences with inspiring personal efforts.

This season has brought the culmination of many great college careers and jumpstarted many others. The greatest story of the season has come from the island state of Hawaii, where senior quarterback Timmy Chang broke Ty Detmer's, career passing record, and he's not done yet. Also emerging are names like J.J. Arrington, the running back at California

who, despite receiving low attention on the national level, is having an unbelievable season with numbers better than that of freshman sensation Adrian Peterson.

Every year, new players come in,

the year is Texas-bred Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson, who has kept his team at number two in the national polls through his superb running, giving them a chance to hoist the crystal trophy.



COURTESY OF POINTS ILLUSTRATED.COM

but at Michigan, the freshmen duo, quarterback Chad Henne and running back Michael Hart, have made a big impact after the departure of star players like Navarre and Perry. The breakout story of

Locally, Boston College has become a huge surprise. Coming in, they had great expectations, as they do every year, but losses to Wake Forest and Pittsburgh brought some doubts as to the outlook for

the rest of the season. After beating Notre Dame and West Virginia however, BC put itself in a prime position to win the Big East Conference. This would give them an automatic bid to the Bowl Championship Series, a huge accomplishment, and as close to the national championship as BC can get. Not to mention it is further than BC has gotten in almost 20 years. This is an especially important year since it is their last in the Big East before switching to the Atlantic Coast Conference, where the competition is tougher. Also in the Boston area, Harvard has been having a spectacular year; undefeated coming into The Game with Yale, their success gives them a national ranking in Division I-AA of higher than 15. This guarantees them a spot in the post-season tournament where teams in Division I-AA vie for the national championship.

In a sport that brings fans the great rivalries of Michigan-Ohio St., Harvard-Yale, Army-Navy and countless others, beauty and grace lie in the fact that the success of both teams is thrown out a second story window, as in the case of Army and Navy. All that matters to either team is that one game. Emotions run high and fans are utterly devoted. There is a banging of drums and a blaring of trumpets, a crushing of pads on pads, the cheering of the crowds, and the smiles and tears of the players and coaches. Every year is better than the last, and this year is no different.

2004 NHL Season Melting Away

By RON BOWER, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

September 16. That is the last time we heard anything about the National Hockey League. Since then, over 224 NHL games have not been played. Commissioner Bettman made this season's focus on morality clear by recently canceling Atlanta's All-Star events for February. The NHL is a market in which the majority of America has lost interest. The NHL reported 273 million dollars in losses for the 2002-2003 season, and things are not getting any better. With competitive and high scoring leagues such as the Major League Baseball, National Football League, and National Basketball Association vying for positions as America's top sport, it is easy to put hockey somewhere in the bleachers.

Hockey's brand of dump and chase along with an average of five goals a game is not enough for America's fans. Every league wants to improve its offense, but with today's goalies eating up nearly all of the net with their overly large pad and defensive schemes like trapping and keeping the puck out of a team's end, there are not many opportunities to score. Competitors

who have played in the Olympics return recounting stories of a larger ice surface and a faster game. The Olympic rinks are fifteen feet wider, which might not sound like much, but with ten 200-pound men skating around, it does make a bit of a difference. There is also no two-line pass, thus expanding the ice and giving greater chances for breakaways. Others suggest that the league's problem is the schedule being too long. After football, hockey is the most physically demanding of the four major league sports. The NFL plays sixteen games per regular season while the NHL has eighty-two. With the amount of weight put on each player for every game, you cannot expect a one-hundred percent effort each week.

Some argue that the NHL is losing all of its money because of its expansion. The league has added nine new teams in nine years, despite lacking the highest popularity rating. The mentality is that hockey is a regional sport and belongs in the north, and all signs point to this being right. Attendance for the Nashville Predators and the Atlanta Thrashers, among other southern teams, has consistently had few seats filled. An

NHL team is a business like any other, so the point is to make money. However, professional Hockey cannot make money in the U.S. unless there is a strong fan base.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

It is the game play for the NHL that makes for the weak fan base. Low attendance and TV rating coupled with high salaries for the players are causing each team to lose excessive amounts of money. The Player Partnership Payroll Plan (P-4) seems to be the best candidate for an

NHL salary cap. Rather than a dollar salary cap, each team would have a point salary cap, in which a certain number of points pays that many dollars. The more advanced a team is in the playoffs, the more points they obtain. Under the P-4, each team pays exactly the same amount to their players by sharing the league's revenue with both players and owners.

As far as I am concerned, there will not be a season for the NHL this year, and possibly a good portion of next year. The job of the owners is to make money. The job of the Players Union is to raise salaries. No consensus will be reached on this issue for as long as one side is making money while the other is losing it all. The fact that most do not care if there is ever a league again is part of the problem. The league had enough trouble generating fans even before the lockout, so I do not know how this will help them (to put it into perspective, the NHL Lockout Prevention Petition has just over 11,000 names). As for when the NHL season will begin, I just have to say, "Wait until next year."

Another Strong Year For Girls' Volleyball

By KATIE BALACONIS, I
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin girls' volleyball team had their work cut out for them this season. Not only did they have the pressure of defending their Dual County League championship, but also they had to rebuild a squad that had lost ten seniors the previous year. While this fact might be discouraging for other schools, Latin, thanks to its strong freshman and junior varsity programs, had players readily prepared and fill the void.

Under the leadership of senior

captains Debbie Wong and Sarah Nguyen, along with Coach Kai, the girls were quickly able to develop strong team unity and a chemistry that is revealed through their impressive overall record of 14-6 and a position in the state tournament. With decisive wins over Newton-South High School and Westford Academy, the girls also proved that they would once again be dominators in league play. They finished second in the DCL, losing in the title game to an undefeated Lincoln-Sudbury High School although they had four all-stars players in Amy Yeh, Helen Wu, Sarah

Nguyen and Debbie Wong. They will be representing BLS in the All-Star game on November 22 at Newton-South High. As Nguyen states, "Starting out as a new and fresh team this year, no one expected us to get as far as we did. We really came a long way this season, both individually and as a team."

In accordance with the tradition of competition between the two teams, Latin faced a strong North Quincy squad in their first-round playoff game. Down by two games, the girls were in a must-win situation. Every serve and possession was crucial as Latin matched

North Quincy point for point. In the end, North Quincy was able to pull out a victory over Latin in the third game. Though upset about the loss, Wong says, "I'm proud of all the effort the girls put in this season and how far we made it."

As the 2004 volleyball season came to a close, the team said good-bye to three seniors. Andrea Huang, Sarah Nguyen and Debbie Wong all have contributed to the success of the team over the past few years. Yet next year is shaping up to be just as great thanks to the hard work and dedication of the team.

Sports Spotlight

Nathan Allukian



BY MICHELLE YAN (V)

BY STEVEN ARMANDT, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Awesome? Athletic? Achiever? I don't know. It seems like none of these words do him justice. "Überfabulaticious" seems like the only thought that really sums up Nate the Great. Yeah, lots of people play three sports. Yeah, lots of people run clubs. Yeah, lots of people can be president of the Senior Class. Yeah... the list just goes on. But to bring all of these together under one überfabulaticious name is pretty noteworthy. He needs his own edition of the *Argo*. This is a sports spotlight, but this guy never stops! First of all, Boston Latin School's academic life is pretty demanding and to add a sport to that is pretty risky. Then add two more sports. Then add the long list of other extracurricular activities and it makes any "normal" day more stressful than the Red Sox Free Agency!

Well, the first sport that sees the likes of Nathan during a school year is Wolfpack football: a group of raging lunatics practicing in subfreezing temperatures on a rock-filled playing field. Playing in the defensive end, he supports a cohesive defense. His job is to block the running back from passing the offensive/defensive line; just like on the playing field, he's always making sure there are no outliers in school. Also contributing to the offensive side, Nate has had his share of success at tight end. As if offense and defense weren't enough, he is also the kicker and punter for the Wolfpack. Watching the game you see Nate on the field almost every play, and there's good reason for it.

After Latin School demolishes its rival English in the Thanksgiving Day game ("BOMB THE BLUE!") he goes right into Varsity wrestling. Hardest sport at the school. Twice the work, half the calories. It's hard work day in and day out for this guy. Last year, he took second at sectionals with an impressive 32-6 record. This year, his sights are set on a first place finish at sectionals on the way to a state championship (with yours truly).

After a period of nonstop after-school sports from September to March he takes a break... for a week. Then it's right into Varsity volleyball. In the 10th grade Nate ran Varsity track but in the 11th grade, he decided to try out volleyball. He made Varsity his first year and hopes to continue to get better as the next season comes around.

Any player who has ever played with Nate can come up with numerous anecdotes about the joviality he shows while keeping his focus on winning. It's truly a love for the game, all of the games. He's got jokes ranging from how the new Corduroy pillows are making headlines (ziiing) to the plight of the fish with two knees, the two-knee fish. Having played a couple of sports with the guy makes you appreciate how he's there for the team no matter what, and often making the team laugh while he's at it.

What's the definition of student athlete? Well, a student athlete. What's the definition of a good student athlete? Nate Allukian.

SPORTS

Ups and Downs For BLS Football

BY CAROLINE SULLIVAN, I
STAFF WRITER

The football team's 4-5 record is not indicative of the season they are having. With the exception of the Acton-Boxboro game, they have only lost by a touchdown or less. Under the leadership of head coach John McDonough and captains Rashaad Bryant (I) and Andrew Larocque (I), this year's squad is one of the best in recent history. However, they are contending with some tough competition in the Dual County League.

The Wolfpack started off the season with a crushing victory over North Quincy, 21-6. Then came Matignon, whom the boys took care of cunningly with a score of 48-0. After two non-league games, the true test would be against the competition in the DCL. Bedford was their next opponent, and also their next victory. The Buccaneers fell to the Wolfpack, 26-14. The final victory on this four game win-streak was achieved against Wayland, typically a strong competitor. The boys defeated the Warriors 26-6, and seemed to be in the right position for continuing

their hot streak.

However, the Newton South Lions had other plans, for they had a passionate drive to win. After leading for the majority of the game, the Lions came back to score 29 points, leading to a heartbreaking one point loss for the Wolfpack. The next opponent was Westford Academy, one of the best in the DCL. Despite a seven-point lead going into the fourth quarter, Westford scored two touchdowns, defeating Boston Latin School by a score of 14-7. With two losses in a row, the Wolfpack played a tough Friday night game against the number one team in the state, Acton-Boxboro. The boys fell, 26-12, but they played adequately and fought hard against the team whose 47 game win-streak spanned for four years. Their next opponent, Lincoln-Sudbury, a strong contender in the DCL, devastated the team's confidence. While most of Boston was gallivanting at the Red Sox victory parade, our boys were playing football. The game was a battle between two good teams, but Lincoln-Sudbury came out victorious, winning by a score of 9-7.

After six games in a row against



BY MICHELLE YAN (I)

DCL competitors, Boston Latin was ready for a local rival. Earlier this year, the mayor had decided to allow Boston Public School football teams to play Friday night games after a forty-six-year ban caused by a brawl that erupted at a football game. Boston Latin got its game under the lights on Friday, November 5, against the Catholic Memorial Knights. With a large crowd on hand to watch the battle, the Wolfpack prepared for a tough game against a good CM team. The Knights struck first, scoring a touchdown with about five minutes left in the first quarter. In the second quarter, the Wolfpack retaliated. Sean Martin (I) picked off a pass from the CM quarterback, and the offense took over. Quarterback Mike Mitchell (I) led the team down the field, helped by the talented running back Rory Foley (II). Bryant finished the drive by running the ball into the end zone, making the score 7-6. The Knights felt the pressure and quickly scored again. With just twenty-one seconds left in the first half, the Knights led 13-6. The Knights added to their lead in the third quarter. The Wolfpack then decided to step up their performance, and they did. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Brian Holland (I) recovered a fumble and ran the ball in, cutting CM's lead to only a touchdown. Nathan Allukian (I) added an extra point, causing CM to lead by only six points. However, the scoring abruptly concluded there. Despite outstanding defensive effort by Mike LiPuma (I), Josh Speicher (I), and Matt Farley (I), who had an interception in the game, the offense could not sneak another touchdown past the CM defense.

The Wolfpack only has two games left: the final DCL game against Concord-Carlisle and the traditional Thanksgiving Day game against our rival, English High School. This season has been a tough one, but one that should make everyone proud. The boys have played admirably against some of the toughest teams in the state, and now there is only one thing left for them to do: BOMB THE BLUE!

Boys' Soccer Focused on Future

BY MADELINE MYLETT, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Latin School boys' soccer team has been, at times, notorious for their inability to, well, win. However, "We won!" Louis Frank (I) told me when I asked him about this year's season. A game versus Latin Academy ending in a score of 7-2 proves that these boys have what it takes. And with this attitude, they hope to improve in the years to follow.

The 2004 boys' soccer team was fairly young this year. They were led by captains Louis Frank (I), Simon Fischer (I), and Peter Bass (I), the only seniors on the team. The three proved to be an incredible source of support for the younger members. "We, the weathered veterans, taught our foolhardy younger teammates how to deal with loss," said Louis. This, of course, is in reference to the somewhat depressing record the team has had in the past. But with a bright outlook on the future, Louis added that "It's a young group, so they'll be a good team in the upcoming years." Simon and Louis both agree that the approaching seasons look promising due to this developing talent.

The group did encounter some rough times this season. Louis remarked

that the members "weren't getting along so well in the beginning," but as the season progressed, they "became much closer and came together as a team." Both Simon and Louis describe their fellow teammates as "quite rambunctious," but at the same time, a fun-loving group. "Our falls were filled with love and friendship



BY THOMAS AHMADIFAR (II)

as we grew together through the bonds of soccer," says Simon, reminiscing about past seasons spent with the team.

Despite past losing seasons, the boys' soccer team did put up a good fight this year. It is sometimes hard to be a team from the city facing more highly-funded and equipped suburban teams of the Dual County League. The boys tried

their hardest, although Simon added that "we got rocked by the hyphenated teams," referring to those of Acton-Boxboro and Lincoln-Sudbury, among others. Louis adds, "Although we may have lost those games, it wasn't because we didn't put in effort. Most of the games were close, and we put up a fight." As their record shows, Latin Academy didn't stand a chance against the Wolfpack this fall.

The boys practiced and played their home games at Millennium Park in West Roxbury. They've also had a coaching change this season and are now under the direction of Mr. Swain. The captains attribute to this new leader the improvement of the team and the overall relationship of the teammates.

Not quite sure of the definite record for the season, Simon remarked, "You lose count after awhile," referring to the amount of losses they accumulated. But they aren't going to dwell on the past. The combination of having a young team and a new coach should prove beneficial in the upcoming years of competition with the intense Dual County League. The captains also remark that they have "left the team with a base to build upon in the future." So watch out Boston Latin, the boys' soccer team is out to change its reputation.

SPORTS

Junior and Senior Girls Go At It

BY CATHERINE FOLEY, I
STAFF WRITER

After school on Tuesday, November 16, you would have found a large majority of the junior class girls, and a good number of the senior class girls crowding around Clemente Field. This time of year, right before the Thanksgiving Day game, you would think the boys would be preparing for their battle against "The Blue," aka English High, upholding the long traditions of the Latin School.

The Powder Puff game is a flag football game between the senior and junior girls. It gives the girls the opportunity to relieve academic stresses, exercise, and have some fun. Shawna Sinnott (II) and the juniors wearing white, and Caroline Sullivan (I) and the seniors in black lined up and the Powder Puff game began, with the boys coaching and cheering from the sidelines.

The seniors kicked off the action with Melissa "Gravity" Gallagher leading the way. Before the juniors had time to return, Anna Shwedel (I) snatched the receivers' flag, which is equivalent to a tackle, and ended the play. Despite Shwedel's next tackle, the juniors were up on the board first as Tara Banani rushed in for the first touchdown.

The juniors' early glory, however, was short lived. After the juniors returned the ball, the senior all-star Caitlin Glynn began her amazing performance by having a 90-yard rush to score the first touchdown for the seniors.

The next few plays were a tug-of-war battle. Although Alyson Sheehan (I) made the tackle after the return, Amy Kotowski (II) made a 60-yard rush. Then the ball was turned over, and Glynn made another rush, but only to be tackled by

Shannon Devlin (II). The seniors however, prevailed as Danielle Prah! handed off the ball to Liz Scully (I), who scored the second touchdown.

The senior's offense was dominating. Carolyn Bird (I) made a "diving grab" according to Jeff Hull (I). "It was like she swooped down from the sky like a bird," remarked Mike LiPuma (I). Also Maria "M-Bomb" Farias had an impressive rush, only to slip and fall on the very muddy field. However, the first half finished with an incomplete pass from Prah! to Katie "K-Bal" Balaconis.

The juniors started off the second

half with a kick-off, but only to be returned by Glynn. Tiffany Luo ("TFNY") gained yards with a quick rush. However, the plays were unsuccessful and the Glynn punted off for the seniors.

The juniors attempt at offense, however, was quickly stopped as Alex Rogers intercepted a pass. Then Glynn had yet another impressive rush. But Glynn was not finished there. Prah! handed the ball to Glynn, who went in for her second touchdown of the game.

With 10 minutes left in the game, the juniors were battling to get more points on the board. Felicia Waldron (I) kept the defense alive with a tackle on a junior return; Shawna Sinnott was tackled by Ellen McDonough; the juniors tried to make another play, but were unsuccessful as Gallagher and McDonough blitzed and made the tackle; the juniors tried to make another attempt by throwing a pass, but it was knocked down by Sheehun.

As the juniors began to make more aggressive attempts at the end zone for a touchdown, Kat Remey (I) stood her ground as she responded by stopping a rush from Sinnott.

As time was running out on the watch of Referee McDonough, Glynn rushed the ball, making her way through lines of juniors, to score her third touchdown, which clenched the game for the seniors. Leah Skahen (I) made the return kick, but the juniors were unsuccessful in their last plays, which were stopped by seniors Shwedel, Farias, and Katie Carney. But the juniors were not done. Kotowski made the final rush for the juniors to bring the drive to third down. The seniors, however, held on when the ball was a few yards away from their end zone, and Ala Doogan (II) tried to go for a pass, but it was hit down by Remey.

The seniors were all smiles and gathered as a team to shout "O five!" They earned every bit of their success. Coach Giordano admitted that "it was the most exciting game I've seen in 21 years." Although Rory Foley (II), the coach of the juniors, put up a good effort, they were no match for the seniors under the coaching of Steve Armandt (I), Josh Speicher (I), Sean O'Brien (I), and Ryan Park (I).

The 2004 Powder Puff game was a success, especially for the seniors. Most of the attitudes were similar to Francesca Morency's (I), "I loved it. I loved every minute of it." I leave you with this final thought: GO SENIORS! '05!



BY CATHERINE FOLEY (I)

half with a kick-off, but only to be returned by Glynn. Tiffany Luo ("TFNY") gained yards with a quick rush. However, the plays were unsuccessful and the Glynn punted off for the seniors.

The juniors attempt at offense, however, was quickly stopped as Alex Rogers intercepted a pass. Then Glynn had yet another impressive rush. But Glynn was not finished there. Prah! handed the ball to Glynn, who went in for her second touchdown of the game.

With 10 minutes left in the game, the juniors were battling to get more points on the board. Felicia Waldron (I) kept the defense alive with a tackle on a

Girls' Swimming Stays Solid

BY COURTNEY FERGUSON, I
SPORTS EDITOR

After Issue I of the *Argo* was distributed, an angry mob of Boston Latin School swimmers ambushed me, ferociously demanding an explanation of their blatant exclusion. With my sincerest apologies, the Sports Section failed to include an article and to recognize swimming in the fall sports schedule. Although they persistently complained, they proved that they are completely dedicated and passionate about swimming.

This season, the enthusiastic Latin School girls' swimming team, comprised of very spirited girls, sporting bright purple sweatpants, sandals with socks, and white and purple ribbons in their hair. Contrary to the popular belief, these swimmers don't practice at the mysterious pool on the fourth floor, but rather at the Murphy School across town in Dorchester. Because of the intensity of the sport, the practices are quite lengthy, often ending past five in the evening. The girls continuously do laps and cut down time from all of their strokes including the breast-stroke, butterfly, and backstroke.

Captains Erin Sullivan (I), Justine Lynch (I), Rosie Malsberger (I), and Becky

Quinn (I) have provided a firm foundation and means of support for the team with their seniority and experience. This season, an unprecedented number of Boston Latin swimmers qualified for sectionals, namely Erin Sullivan, Rosie Malsberger, Cindy Lee (I), Sarah Silverman (III), Lani Skipper (II), and Kathleen Grueter (IV). In addition, the medley and freestyle relay



BY JAMES MEALEY (III)

succeeded in making the states. Melissa Gilmore (I), the only official diver, deserves much credit for coming extremely close to making the states. Along with these swimmers, seniors Patricia Hao and Molly Higgins had stepped up and swam

to their full potential.

Girls' swimming had an impressive season this year, winning seven out of their eight meets. This is a great accomplishment for a team that has not been very successful in the previous years, and is continually improving. With their difficult schedule, the team has performed far past what was expected. Most notably, they had three close meets against Sandwich High School, Brookline High School, and Dedham High School, in which the deciding factor was only the final 400-meter relay.

The Boston Latin girls' swimming team has proved to be one of the most committed at the school. These girls are quirky and they always manage to have fun. At meets, these athletic scholars are the only ones marching in with towels wrapped around their waists, books in one hand and gym bags in the other. Because they are jumping in and out of the pool sometimes more than five times a week, the girls aromatically smell of chlorine. Wishing the team the best of luck in the future, Captain Becky Quinn said, "Although there are eight seniors leaving this year, I'm confident the juniors and sophomores will continue to build a strong team."

Sports Spotlight
Katie Balaconis

BY CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS LTD

BY CATHERINE FOLEY, I
STAFF WRITER

I will always remember that day at Katie's house when we looked up funny but inspirational quotes to hang up in the girls' hockey locker room. Writing this spotlight about Katie made me realize that there is so much to say about her, and I wish I could find the perfect quote that would accurately embrace her whole personality and spark. However, you need to know Katie-B to understand what I am trying to say.

As an athlete, it all began when neither one of us could even lift the puck off the ice. Growing up, we were defensive partners and the only girls on South Boston Youth Hockey team. It was just the beginning. Katie has accomplished so many great things including the Division II state title as a sixie, as well as the Division I state title. She has also solidly defended the Wolfpack and thus far has played in the tournament each year.

But hey, it is not the success that makes Katie-B a great athlete. On the first day of school last year when I walked into my classes, Katie was there not only in one, two, or three of my classes, but to my luck she was in four. Maybe the unnatural amount of time we spent together made me realize how important Katie is to the girls' hockey team, and how much she deserves the "Athlete-Idol" award.

Granted, every season has been stressful so far, but Katie adds to the special personality of the team. She always has something fun to do or funny to say. Most importantly, she keeps everyone's spirits up when things do not look so good. I cannot imagine a better co-captain.

Katie's credentials do not even stop there. She is a very dedicated runner on the cross-country team in the fall. Madison Gilmore (IV) says she "always finishes," and I realize that this applies to more than just cross-country. In the winter she is constantly traveling from one rink to the next. You would think Katie would finally get a chance to relax in the spring. Nope! She spends her time amongst the girls' softball team as the manager.

Katie has been an All-League All-Star for the Boston Latin School since as long as I can remember. She is also equally strong in the classroom and hopes to major in Biomedical Engineering at prestigious universities such as Stanford, University of Pennsylvania, Boston College, or Boston University.

So the next time you see Katie with her sixie-esque book bag, take a minute and realize that she doesn't have a spare moment to use the weight room, so she just carries her books around with her all day to make up for it! I will, however, leave you with the words of Jim Dugan from *A League of Their Own*, which I believe capture the meaning of being an athlete among the Wolfpack, "If it was not hard, then everyone would do it."

SPORTS

We Are the Champions: A Personal Account

BY SAM AKIBA, I
SPORTS EDITOR

We have now been world champions for a little more than three weeks. I for one can say that the pride and enjoyment of being world champs have faded very little, and this feeling won't fade for a long time. Forget any hesitations you might have with finding such gratification in something as superficial as baseball. Here in Boston, the Red Sox are not just a baseball team. They are just as much a part of this town as the Boston Tea Party or the Boston Massacre. On October 27, 2004, at 10:47 p.m., we witnessed history. We went from being cursed to first; we exorcised those troublesome demons. I'll be the first to say that it was one of the greatest moments of my life, an incredible ending to what many described as the best postseason ever. The headline that *Sports Weekly* ran, "Hell Freezes Over," was the best newspaper title ever. You saw the epic collapse of the Evil Empire, you saw the unprecedented eight-game winning streak, and you could probably watch it again, again and again. I could never get sick of World Series highlights.

The thought that Yankees fans like Mr. Harper will have the taste of the sorrow that Boston fans have experienced for

the last 86 years is very satisfying.

As a couple of friends and I ventured to Kenmore to soak in the World Series victory, we experienced a scene described as apocalyptic at best, with widespread euphoria. It was as if hell froze over, only



COURTESY OF MLB.COM

in the outskirts of Fenway Park. The city as a whole erupted; fireworks were shot off. Cars with blaring horns screeched down streets. The city was packed with wild fans soaking in the bliss that no one has been able to enjoy for over three generations. Being among all the commotion when we finally won it all was better than I could have ever imagined.

Besides the fact that we are now the long-awaited world champions, our identity as Sox fans is forever changed, and changed for the better. We can all agree that we will no longer hear the following: 1918, loveable losers, the Curse of

querable force that always comes through is erased. This century the world championship score is Yankees-1, Red Sox-1. Jason Varitek said, "Now Red Sox fans can walk into Yankee Stadium with their heads held high." Before 2004, the Sox always gave the Yankees trouble, but in the end the Yankees always got the better of us. Not anymore. We made them look worse than any other playoff team in the history of baseball. Just as Mayor Menino predicted, "Much like a cookie, I predict the Yankee dynasty will crumble." I own a shirt that reads, "Any team can have a bad century." We had ours, now its time for the Yankees to have theirs.

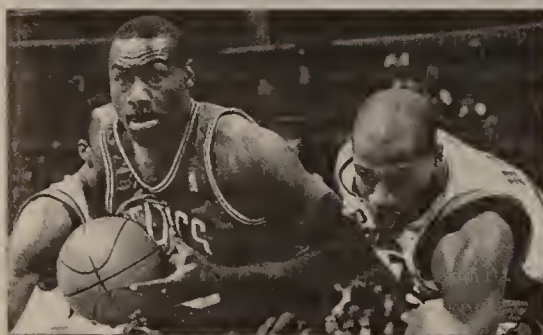
It is hard to articulate the happiness that I have had for the past couple weeks. Always in the back of my mind, the Red Sox failing to win a championship has been burning constantly. It might be an overstatement to say I can now die happy, but I definitely feel more fulfilled. All the clichés that sports analysts used to describe the Red Sox coming up short are now switched around to portray a team that has overcome incredible odds. The Red Sox are Sisyphus, Exorcists, History makers, and Idiots. The year 2004 marks the beginning of a new era in Red Sox history; the long-lasting torture is over. Finally, it happened in our lifetime.

Celts Rebuilding

BY JAKE GRAHM-FELSEN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As we all come off the Red Sox historical World Series title, basking in the end of the eighty-six-year drought, we turn our attention to another team that were the talk of the town: the Boston Celtics. The Celtics are now focused on the future.

New faces come and go quite often. Look at the departure of the now impressive Chris Mihm and the seasoned veteran Chucky Atkins. In exchange, the Celtics acquired Gary Payton who has to prove he is still a threat at the point guard, and



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not the slow and tired player he appeared to be last year for the Lakers.

Yet we also see the new faces of very promising rookies like Al Jefferson, Tony Allen and Delonte West. The man behind all this commotion is the Celtics' president of Basketball Operations, Danny Ainge. Taking up this position last year, Ainge started out with a bang, putting together a shockingly direct plan for the future success of his club. This plan consisted of cutting payroll and working towards improvement by adding young talent and maintaining veteran presence. I, like the rest of Celtic Nation, was shocked by his early removal of Antoine Walker, and his mid-season trading of Eric Williams and Tony Battie. All these players have been constants in the Celtics' lineup, not to mention key players in the Celtics' run at the Championship in '02.

Though at first I did not like these

moves, eventually I found Ainge was right to stick to his initial plan of working his team for the future. Look back to what Ainge saw when he first arrived with the Celtics: we had lost to the Nets two straight years in the Eastern Conference finals, and then in the Eastern Conference semi-finals. In view of the recurring outcome, Ainge made the correct move: he decided to rebuild. We can dispose of last season as a throw-away year to assist Ainge's plan. One thing is for sure: we emerged from that disappointing season with very good draft picks.

With the talent of Paul Pierce currently heading the Celtics, and young, skilled role players like Jiri Welsch, Marcus Banks, Al Jefferson, Kendrick Perkins, and Tony Allen behind him, this team is not only set for the future, but also can improve its present situation more than most other teams. The addition of Gary Payton, who brings a great veteran presence to a team of young inexperienced players, can help Pierce get through these tough transition years, assist young guards like Marcus Banks to understand the NBA style of play, and set an example of what Ainge wants out of these young players for the future. Another key veteran addition is Tom Gugliotta. Gugliotta, like Payton, will help Al Jefferson, Kendrick Perkins and the rest of Ainge's big men prospects.

With a current first and second team consisting of five of ten players who have only two years of NBA experience or less, we can see Ainge's plan. He obviously aims to get these young players on the floor often enough to give them experience, and potentially work them into a starting job where they can contribute. With luck, they will become prominent players in this weak Atlantic Division. With a current team that shows playoff potential, and signs of future success, I am quite content with the Celtics and what Danny Ainge has in store for us.

Pats Still Dominate

BY ADAM FLEISCHER, II
STAFF WRITER

Certain things just don't happen in the National Football League: a wide receiver playing defensive back and making an interception, a linebacker in formation as a tight end catching a touchdown, and a place kicker throwing the ball for a score. Such unconventional methods are unheard-of around the league. Nonetheless, Bill Belichick, Patriots' head coach and mastermind behind the team's recent success, has implemented all of these techniques through the first half of the season with remarkable results. The Pats lead their division and are tied for the best record in the league at 8-1.



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That one loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers on October 31 marked the end of one streak and possibly the beginning of another. New England went into the game trying to extend a league record 18-game regular season winning streak (21 games including the playoffs), and looking to improve this season's record to 7-0. Unfortunately, on Halloween night, the Pats were not treated, but tricked, into a 34-20 loss at the hands of the now 8-1 Steelers, arguably the best team in the NFL.

The debacle against the Steelers was uncharacteristic of the defending Super Bowl champs. The Pats were riding high, heading into their trip to Pittsburgh; they were coming off of a key 13-7 win against a previously undefeated team, division rival the New York Jets. Prior to the win in the Jets game, New England was pit-

ted against the Seattle Seahawks, a team which many experts, including the writers from *Sports Illustrated*, predicted would meet the Patriots in this year's Super Bowl. If that ends up being the case, Bostonians should get ready for another parade, seeing as the Pats triumphed over the Seahawks, 30-20, lifted by two touchdowns from running back Corey Dillon. Victories over the Cardinals, Dolphins, Rams, Bills (twice), and the explosive Indianapolis Colts to kick off the season have also contributed to the superb 8-1 record.

After winning the Super Bowl in two of the last three seasons, the New England Patriots seem to be headed down that same path again this year. By remaining outstanding in areas of strength from recent seasons and improving in spots of weakness, the Pats are once again among the league's elite. Some of that consistent dominance has been in the team's overall offensive and defensive performances; scoring

the sixth most points per game (26.3) and surrendering the fifth least (16.9) off any squad in the NFL. In the past, as with this season, scoring has never been a problem, but the same cannot be said about a reliable running game. This year, though, all that has changed. The offseason addition of Pro Bowl running back Corey Dillon has proven to be a largely beneficial move. He is fourth in the league in rushing with 900-yards. Dillon has helped to make sure that the loss against Pittsburgh does not become an act of regularity in the organization, as they have gone 2-0 (now 23-1 in last 24 games) since the defeat. With the help of quarterback Tom Brady, coach Belichick and constant defensive excellence, Dillon and the Patriots will undoubtedly be able to once again have a deep playoff run.



A Life to Remember

BY TOM AHMADIFAR, ASHLYN GARRY, & LIZ FINLAYSON, II

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR, NEWS EDITOR, & STAFF WRITER

Everyone has a “Ms. Devin story.” People talk about the time she defended her Pomeranian with a baseball bat during a string of break-ins in her apartment building, or how she had extreme affection for the rapper Eminem. In the days following her tragic accident, students and teachers have chosen to remember these and other stories.

One thing that teachers will look back on with gratitude is Ms. Kathleen Devin's dedication to the Boston Teachers Union and devotion to teachers' rights. She was not afraid to take an unpopular position to advance a cause that she believed just. For instance, when the BTU and the City of Boston were in the midst of stalled contract negotiations, Ms. Devin took an alternate stance and proposed a strike, which ultimately helped to settle the conflict. Her accomplishments in the BTU affect teachers now and will continue to do so for years to come.

Above all, Ms. Devin touched the lives of her students. Her laid-back attitude towards life and learning made her class a respite from the daily stresses of Boston Latin School. Recognizing the students' need to lead productive lives outside of school, her homework assignments were generally light. If a student were having a bad day, she was always there with open ears and an open mind, willing to share some of her own anecdotes. When four obnoxious boys in one of her classes were tormenting a female classmate, Ms. Devin told them to leave her alone, and remarked that she herself was teased for her height as a kid. Her knowledge in diverse areas was gained from experiences as a construction worker, a high school classics teacher, and an acupuncturist-in-training. Not known as a strict disciplinarian, Ms. Devin made her students feel like they could be themselves around her (sometimes provoking innocent mischief). The relaxed atmosphere of the Annex, where she taught for two years, prompted creative student activities, includ-

ing the invention of a baseball hybrid using plungers and tinfoil. Ms. Devin invited the student inventors to hold Opening Day in her room.

In addition to her flexible code of conduct, which included threats of misdemeanor marks but no instances of actually issuing them, Ms. Devin always kept to her own schedule. Every once in a while she would abruptly leave class to speak with a colleague or student in the corridor, providing her students with a short break from Latin. She was also observed between class periods making obviously important calls on her cellphone. She was a free spirit outside of school as well, where she rode a Hog anywhere she pleased.

Ms. Devin's main purpose in life was helping others. She wanted to help more people than just those in her Latin

classes. That desire fueled her motivation to become an acupuncturist and eventually to return to education, though as the school nurse. At the community college Ms. Devin attended, she was a typical student who thoroughly enjoyed her courses but who was also confused about chemistry.

It is unspeakably unfortunate that Ms. Devin's life ended just as she was preparing to fulfill more of her dreams by graduating. In the early hours of December 12, she allegedly fell asleep at the

wheel and lost control of her car.

It is impossible to fully comprehend just how much Ms. Devin affected the lives of her students and colleagues. Her words, actions, and philosophy will never be forgotten. Ms. Devin's most important lessons could not be found in *Jenney's* or *Latin for Americans*, but were rather from the heart.



Kathleen Joan Devin 1960 - 2004

BY JONATHAN LARA, III

Happy All Holidays

To my girls: Andisa, Hazel, Jeannette, Chenglin, Janine, Katie, Dri, Chanel, Lily, Vickiana, Keisha, Hannah, Sarah, Hanna, Kermy, Wendy

To my guys: Luka, Travis, Cody, Billy, <3 Dennis <3

From: <3 Tati <3

Merry X-Mas to all my friends!

Esp. Allie Ng, Megan O'Neil, and Kristina T.

I love you guys!

— Jessica Lui

iFeliz Navidad!

Kim + Fang

4-Ever!

Happy Holidays!

Happy Holidays to the JCL!

Congratulations to Bora for getting into Princeton —and being paid handsomely to go there. I'm so incredibly proud of you.

— Just guess.

Merry Christmuhanukwanzaaka to all my friends (the lunch bunch, Amber, Jessica, Shawn, Cristel, Chris, Marval, Luka, etc.)

Sry if I forgot anyone.

Boston Latin School *Argo*
2004–2005 Academic Year

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Technology Report

BY MATT FABIAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ever download WeatherBug? What about Kazaa? Well if you have, chances are your computer is infected with spyware or adware, collectively called malware. Malware is software that installs itself, usually undetected, onto your computer and communicates with a third party. This could mean sending back information to a marketing company for research or direct advertising, primarily resulting in several problems: your computer slows down because it has to run all this junk, you get bombarded with ads—think of it as your computer creating its own pop-up ads—, your homepage and favorites get changed automatically and your computer freezes up more often. Traces of spyware are found on the Boston Latin School computers all the time, and while there is not much hope for the computers here, there are easy ways to protect yours at home.

First, ditch Internet Explorer. Malware is able to find its way into your computer because of exploits and bugs found in the program. Microsoft defends its browser, saying that it's just as safe as any other browser, but most people in the know are smart enough to call their

bluff. There are plenty of free alternatives out there, but the most popular is Mozilla Firefox (<http://www.mozilla.org>). Almost every single malware is counting on you to use Internet Explorer. If you aren't using it, you are almost instantly immune to having your homepage or favorites changed. Not to mention that these other browsers have features that IE just can't match. Not until recently did Microsoft decide to include a built in pop-up blocker, which other browsers have had all along.

Then get an adware/spyware removal program. This seems like the most intuitive thing to do. There are plenty of programs available and they all claim to be the best. But the bottom line is that you can keep yourself malware free and never have to pay a dime, so ignore ads that want you to buy spyware removal software. Ad-Aware (<http://www.lavasoftusa.com>), SpySweeper (<http://www.webroot.com>) and Spybot: Search and Destroy (<http://www.spybot.info>) are just a few of the freeware offered. Once you have one (or more) of these programs, you'll need to routinely run them and check for any junk that's gotten itself on your computer.

Use a firewall. A firewall is a program that monitors your computer's Internet activity. For all intents and purposes, you can decide which programs are allowed internet access, and which are not. This can be helpful for spotting spyware. If your firewall asks you if gator.exe or any other unfamiliar program can access the Internet, then you may want to investigate further. A good freebie firewall can be downloaded at <http://www.zonelabs.com>, or you can pay \$50 and buy Norton's version of it... but it's your choice.

Finally, surf safely. If you like online gambling, downloading software illegally, or 18+ sites, then you are asking for bad things to creep into your computer. Be smart when surfing the web, and don't give in to downloading nifty little programs that will tell you the weather forecast or "suggest" great places to find bargains for your Christmas shopping. These things may do what they say, but they can also have a more malicious plan. Did you know that every time Kazaa runs, it checks to see if the adware it installed is still there, and if it isn't, the program won't even start? Kazaa Lite works by placing a dummy program in its place to trick Kazaa into thinking that the adware is still there. Another way people get spyware is by being tricked into clicking something. So when surfing, just use common sense.

The last thing you can do is to get a Mac. But who does that anyway?

A Message from the Head Master

In the letter I mailed to your home in August and at the assemblies in September, I required that all of you learn the BLS Mission Statement. I am interested in your understanding of the different sections of the mission and I am asking you a question in this issue. Would you please share with me in writing your definition of a "contemporary

classical education?"


Please submit your thoughts (no more than one page) to Mrs. Malone in the Main Office. Be sure to include your name and year of graduation.

Special thanks to the *Argo* editors.

Cornelia Kelley
Head Master

Mission Statement of the Boston Latin School

"Boston Latin School seeks to ground its students in a contemporary classical education as preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life."



Boston Latin School
Argo

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The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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BLS Science Department

Honk If You Hate Traffic

BY JIEYU JIANG, III
STAFF WRITER

With the clanging of the alarm at 6 a.m., Elizabeth O'Brien (III) rises, gets dressed, eats breakfast and runs to Gallivan Boulevard in front of Osco's in Dorchester to wait for her charter bus. Once on, she can only sit and watch anxiously as the bus inches its way through the endless traffic, often traveling at ox-cart speed along Huntington or Longwood Avenue. As it pulls up to the school, she runs to her homeroom, hoping that the bell doesn't ring before she steps inside. This is the typically hectic start of the day for the Boston Latin School student.

Located at the heart of Longwood Medical Area, Boston Latin School can be a hard place to get to. Everyday from 6:55 to 7:45, approximately 2,500 students and some 200 faculty members travel to the school from Boston and the suburbs. At the same time hundreds of other workers, students, professors, scientists and patients pour into neighboring buildings in the Longwood Medical Area.

All is chaos on Avenue Louis Pasteur. The whole lane of parking spaces outside the school is specially reserved for charter buses to pick up and drop off students. Assistant Headmaster Mr. Richard Fulton points out that the problem is that "if one car, just one car, parks somewhere along that curb, it will cause a whole string of commotion in traffic." The buses have to double-park alongside the cars and block half the street. Students weaving through the traffic on foot create more delays.

Part of the problem is due to the density of the area surrounding the school. The neighborhood has four major hospitals: Children's, Brigham and Women's, Beth Israel Deaconess, and Dana-Farber; three colleges; Harvard Medical School; and numerous research facilities, including the new construction



across from Boston Latin. The arrival of new neighbors, including Harvard Medical School's new building at 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur and Merck's adjoining research facility, has made the traffic even worse. New construction is only scheduled to increase in the coming years, adding further burdens to the already jammed streets.

One intersection that has been especially problematic is that of Huntington and Longwood. Karen Chiu (V) reports that it is almost impossible to cross the intersection during the period before

school without sitting through three or four light cycles. Much of the logjam is created by individual Latin School parents driving their children to school.

Charter buses and trains are also caught in the turmoil at this intersection, as trolleys are delayed when parents run red lights. Occasionally the delays are such that buses and trains arrive to school late. While students in this situation are sometimes excused from tardy detention, the tardies stay on their records. The school does not excuse tardiness if students driven by parents are caught in the traffic unless an emergency occurs.

Each morning, nine supplemental buses pick up students from their neighborhoods at appointed locations and drive them back to that location after school. The use of these so-called "charter" buses came about because of a shortage of school buses. To rectify the problem, the School Committee turned to the MBTA to provide transportation. The MBTA, which receives federal funds for the service, is required to stop for local passengers by conditions of the grant, although not all bus drivers do.

To help the traffic problems, the MBTA proposed a plan to bring long buses that will be able to take more passengers to Louis Pasteur. It would, however, mean giving up parking spaces along the curb to a fast lane for the buses, so the school chose to decline the offer. Bobby Lee (II) observes that "the traffic around the school is pretty bad, but it's understandable because there are so many hospitals and schools around it. The only solution to the problem is to move our school, which is highly unlikely."

MAY I SAY JOLLY CHRISTMAS TO THE FOLLOWING...

PHAM MAMARADLO, SANDRA LEE, YI LIU, IRENE YU, LINA ZHONG, MARGARET LAM, THU NGO, WINNIE KYI, ALLENTSE, JENNA LAU, JESSICA QU, XIN GUAN, AILEEN NG, BOBBY LEE, FAUSTINO MORA, KEVIN MORISSON, LILY LIANG, ESTELLA SOOHOO, ALYSSA SOOHOO, JERRY RUAN, KAM HO LAU, MIKEY MOLINARI, AMY YEH, CHRISTINE CHOI, JUSTIN HUYNH, MAI VU, ALI PAPPAS, CECILIA WONG, IVY VONG, MARY HONG, MICHILLE FINLEY, JENNIFER GALLANT, THERESA LAU, THU NGUYEN, TRANG PHANNNGUYEN, VICTORIA LEE, JIAN RONG LIU, STEVEN LI, JENNEY SZETO, LEO MAU, HONG GAM LE, LINH DANG, HELEN WU, AMANDA KWOK, KEN KAN, OLICIA PAQUETTE, MAI NGUYEN, STEFANIE CHAN, CHRISTINE LI, TRACY WU, VICKY TRAN, JULIE CHANG, JENNY LUM, JOHNSON TRAN, PETER AGCHAKER, KIM PHAN, CIRGINIA NG, JIEYU JIANG, MY-THE TRINH, ALAN PENG, PHILIP CHAN, NEYSA SHUM, PHUONG NGUYEN, SHAWNA SINNOT, PHUC TRAN, ANDREW YEE, HELEN PANG, SARA SEARS, ZI WEN CHEN, ZI XIU CHEN, CAROL MA, JESSE NGO, JESSICA NOSEWORTHY, KATIE MCCOLGAN, ASHLEY MARTELL, KELLY BAKER, JENNIFER CHAN, MATTHEW LAM, BEN LI.

To Jon, Joe, Brian
and the rest of the BLS JV
Hockey team

— Go Wolf Pack!

BINKA,

YOU ALWAYS
MAKE ME PROUD!

TO JOHN BAUTISTA

Congratulations!
Great job.

Love, Dad, Mom, Jeni + JJ

Congratulations
Stephanie

Love, Mom, Dad,
JoJo + Gabriela

Merry Christmas Lilly
and Aoife. Lots of love,

Mom and Big T

Introducing the 'Latin Lifers'

BY MARY HONG, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

Mysterious and unobtrusive, theirs is a subtle presence, detectable in the clean floors of halls and classrooms, replenished paper towel supplies, new light bulbs, and well-kept grass. They are the Boston Latin School custodians. Seven work the night shift starting in the afternoon and remain until long after the last student has filed out. In the evening, music from different genres and competing radio stations fills each floor, sometimes mixing across the hallways. Magic 106.7 and its "continuous soft rock" is the preferred station of the first floor, but the music wing favors international music and news (e.g. 88.9 WERS). The third floor is often graced with songs from...Britney Spears.

Each custodian is responsible for cleaning and re-supplying assigned corridors on all four floors and the arts wing. All custodians meet to work together on the gym, library, cafeteria and auditorium. When the *Argo* inquired as to which rooms are messiest, Marcia Edgehill, the custodian on the first floor known for her easy smile, didn't blink an eye. "Room 114," she said, but then hesitated, "Actually Room 114 is always messiest *after* vacations, but Room 123 is the worst *before* vacation," (both are located in the junior corridor). According to Kevin Richardson, who works in the music wing, the custodians "work throughout the summer to bring the school to a better condition." Before school starts, they are responsible for waxing floors, making repairs, landscap-

ing, and also handle general upkeep of the premises. Each custodian has keys to all the rooms in the school, which explains why students turn to them first to get into locked classrooms.

The night senior custodian is none other than Mr. Charles Tyner, whom incidentally, the *Argo* has never neglected to thank on the second page, right there on the bottom with Mr. Malcolm Flynn. Although Tom Glavin recently retired from the corps, this elite group of the



SENIOR NIGHT CUSTODIAN CHARLES TYNER

"Latin Lifers" (term coined by custodian Kevin) has been honored to initiate a new member, Antonio Montriel from Cape Verde, who is now in charge of the first floor senior hallway. There is a unique story behind each of these faces just waiting to be heard. Marcia Edgehill on the first floor, who has worked at Latin School for four and a half years, is a recently married emigrant from Brazil. I was also surprised to learn that she is a graduate of the Grande Rio School with a

degree in Accounting and Engineering. A decade-long resident of Boston, she says that the thing she misses most about her country, where her family still resides, is the weather. She says there it is "hot all the time." Marcia also loves to cook and spend time with her family, go out for a nice dinner or watch a movie. Marcia says she is satisfied working at Latin. "It makes me happy...the kids are very nice. I learn something everyday, and this school is not like other schools. All the kids focus and learn," she says, "I just do the best I can do." On top of her assigned duties, Marcia says she tries "to support all the kids from Boston Latin," and recounts many instances when she was compelled to comfort the distressed in restrooms and hallways or to take time to listen to the woes of hall wanderers. Once you get to know her, you'll see that she always has a smile on her face, a greeting to give and something nice to say.

Another thoroughly engrossing character is Kevin who is 45 years old ("but doesn't look it", he says). Friendly and outgoing, he has a rapport with the denizens of the music wing. Kevin is multitalented. He gives private lessons as a proud member of the United States Professional Tennis Register (USPTR) and is also an accomplished drummer.

I have introduced two custodians. But in the spirit of the holiday season, take the initiative. Stop, if only for a moment, to find *your* custodian and thank him or her. Who knows, maybe you will even learn something new.

One other thing: don't forget to put up your chairs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It is greatly appreciated.

NEWS

Ukrainian Turmoil

BY KATIE HARRISON, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After two tense weeks of standoff sparked by last month's disputed presidential elections, a compromise was reached in Ukraine on Wednesday, December 8 when Parliament passed a bill containing measures important to both sides. The bill will ensure a fair Supreme Court-ordered second election on December 26, as well as sweeping changes to the government by late 2005. Essentially, the package makes

congressman that he had financially supported Yushchenko.

After the election, the government declared Yanukovich the winner. The opposition cried foul based on data from exit polls, citing the election as a perfect example of the corruption that has plagued the country's politics. Mass demonstrations by Yushchenko's loyalists ensued and have continued unabated for the past two weeks.

The outgoing president, Leonid Kuchma, was elected in 1994 on a plat-



victory more likely for the opposition candidate but also makes it less meaningful, since the president's authority will be decreased under the new governmental structure.

The cause of the conflict was the presidential election held on November 21 between current Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko. During the campaign Russian president Vladimir Putin twice appeared with Yanukovich, while Viktor Yushchenko drew support from Western Europe. The country is largely divided along similar lines: many Russians and Russian speakers live in the eastern half, while the western half has had historically closer ties with Europe. Widespread foreign influence has been apparent on both sides, and the U. S. and Russian presidents have made pointed remarks to each other on the subject of the elections. Putin said that "neither Russia nor the European Union nor international organizations will solve the problems" in Ukraine. Bush agreed, saying that the Ukrainian election "must reflect the will of the people and not that of any foreign governments." He denied accusations by an American

form of creating tighter economic ties with Russia. He has succeeded in this to a moderate degree; inflation rates have fallen and exports have increased since the new millennium. Recently, Kuchma's main goal has been to pass a controversial amendment to the constitution that creates a parliamentary republic in place of the current system, in which the president heads the governmental bureaucracy. In the new system passed with the December 8 bill, the president would appoint the foreign minister and interior minister, two of the most important posts. The prime minister, however, who is subject to both a majority vote in Parliament and presidential veto, would lead the government. Parliament would also appoint the presidential cabinet. These changes are seen by many simply as attempts to limit the influence of challenger Yushchenko, whom most speculate will be the winner of the revote. To placate the opposition, changes in election laws and procedures were agreed upon. The bill's passage marks a transition from the strong presidential systems of other nations in the former Soviet bloc towards the parliamentary systems across Western Europe.

Big Dig, Big Mess

BY LIZ FINLAYSON, II
STAFF WRITER

Over budget, behind schedule and leaky are just a few ways that the Big Dig, the largest and, at \$14.6 billion, the most expensive public works project in the history of the United States, has been described.

Construction began in 1991 and was slated to be finished in 1995, but delays have pushed the completion date back to 2005. The latest problem with the project

discovered that the major leak in September was caused by sub-par concrete pouring in sections of the tunnel completed in 1999. Dirt and other impurities became trapped in the wall and were washed away, leaving behind a gaping hole. Similar imperfections, though mostly on a smaller scale, line the walls of the tunnel, creating multiple minor leaks that could add up to one big problem. Big Dig officials have admitted that they are in the process of repairing 400 to 500 small holes spanning the length of the tunnel walls.



is a series of leaks in sections of the Artery Tunnel that has caused big problems for commuters and Big Dig project managers alike. The leaks range in severity from small trickles to breaches spewing 300 gallons a minute. So far, there have been problems with 12 percent of the three-foot thick sections of wall. One source of problems has been pockets of sand, gravel, and clay that were embedded in the walls during the construction process. The public became aware of the problem on September 15, 2004 when a major leak in the Artery Tunnel caused a 10-mile rush-hour traffic jam that kept commuters delayed for hours.

These supposedly small structural imperfections have meant more time and labor for the project's managers and contractors. The damages are expected to cost as much as \$500,000 and take an additional two months to fix. Executives at both Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, the company managing the Big Dig, and the primary contractor, Mondern Continental Construction Co., have promised to pay for their shares of the repairs.

A report from the state inspector and auditor shows that Big Dig managers were warned as early as 1997 about the potential for serious leaks. Investigators

Big Dig managers were recently summoned to testify before the House Government Reform Committee about who is responsible for the leaks in the defective tunnel. According to Massachusetts State Representative Stephen F. Lynch, hearings will be scheduled in January at the J. Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse in Boston. The panel will discuss and examine the extent of the leaks and the cost of repair. Among those being questioned are spokespersons from Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, members of the Mass Turnpike Authority, and construction contractors. The main concern of the House Government Reform Committee is, however, to determine whether or not the tunnels are safe for regular use by commuters.

Matthew Amorello, the chairman of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, has refused to resign in response to the new issues, and has assured the public that the tunnel is safe. "There is no way that I or the Turnpike Authority or the engineers who work on the project would ever allow citizens to use an unsafe highway network," said Amorello. Disregarding this assertion, many commuters have chosen to avoid the tunnel altogether.

Senior Praefects

BY REBECCA BILODEAU, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

To the untrained eye, the students seated in various corners of the school with heads bent over desks appear to be taking makeup exams. This is not the case. Whether aware of it or not, we've all seen them: the senior praefects who sport official Boston Latin School lanyards that grant the bearer the right to be in the hallways. As hall monitors, praefects are responsible for guiding visitors to the appropriate offices, preventing roaming in the halls, stopping the entrance of intruders, and last but not least, guarding fire alarm boxes from potential pranksters. Praefects are expected to "cherish and obey" the honor code as well as all other school rules. Any violator loses the ability

to serve as a senior praefect. Academics, however, are to remain first priority and should a student require the use of the library to work on a project, they are allowed to forego their duties as praefect to complete this work.

The praefects themselves offered a variety of responses as to the usefulness of their services. Some feel that praefects provide a significant contribution to the school. Other hall monitors have a less positive view of their positions. "It's a lazy way," one responded when asked if becoming a senior praefect was a good way to fulfill community service requirements. "I don't think it's particularly meaningful." Through duties performed as praefects, seniors are able to complete all of the required 100 hours of community service. Praefects give up their study

periods during the last month of junior year and their entire senior year to guard the halls or provide supplementary staffing in an administrative office. Others have noted, however, that hall monitors do not spend their entire time in the halls staring intently at the fire alarm box to catch troublemakers. While the position of praefect is not intended to provide opportunities for so-



BY MICHELLE YAN, V & CHENG LIN YUAN, V

Continued on page 5

Global News Tidbits

>>The Argo would like to congratulate Mr. Stengel on winning the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching.
>>A member of the staff at Britain's Royal Buckingham Palace in London has been dismissed for allegedly reselling his Christmas gift from Queen Elizabeth. It was a traditional Christmas pudding,

Continued from page 4
cializing, praefects have been observed quitting their posts to visit other praefects. Still, most use the time to complete schoolwork.
Praefects with office duties are generally considered far more productive and active than those involved with hall monitoring. Delivering passes, running errands and other similar tasks fall exclusively into the hands of senior praefects. Assistant Head Master Mr. Richard Fulton expresses great pride in the initiative shown by those who staff his office. "When you set standards of behavior and offer a stake in the community, they rise to the occasion," he says. He is also impressed with how much praefects do of their own volition to get things done.

which usually retails for approximately \$12. (Reuters)
>>On December 5, government officials in Thailand promoted peace in its conflict-ridden southern provinces using novel tools: 120 million origami cranes. They were dropped to attempt to soothe the angered Islamic separatists in the regions of Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala. (Reuters)
>>In Houston, Devlin B. Nelson ordered a \$6 steak and cheese sandwich. When it arrived too cold for his liking,

he threatened to kill the manager if he did not get a refund. Nelson was arrested by Houston police. (AP)
>>On December 6, the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia was attacked. Allegedly, the Qaeda al Jihad in the Arabian Peninsula (a division of Al Qaeda) threw grenades in the compound and then stormed it, taking hostages. The group reported that they had killed nine people (including two Americans) and seven Saudi soldiers. The U.S. Embassy denied the claim, saying no Americans had been

killed. (CNN)
>>On November 23, Nat Hentoff '41 became the 50th alumnus to be a "Distinguished Graduate of the Year" in BLS's long history. An advocate of education and the arts, Hentoff is a writer. He has written 30 books to date, often about civil liberties and freedom. In appreciation for Hentoff's achievements, BLSA is awarding Hentoff its highest honors. (BLSA Magazine)

Praefect Jay O'Brien feels that Mr. Fulton, unlike many of the other teachers in the school, respects the praefects as adults, instead of "just teenagers."
Interestingly, none of the praefects interviewed have had to deal with any prohibited activities more serious than extended lavatory visitation periods. This does, however, support the administration's claim that the number of prank fire alarms has decreased since the creation of the position of senior praefect in the 2000-2001 school year. Several praefects observed that, with people posted at every corner, the halls are quieter than they once were. But how strong is the deterrent force of praefects? Would chaos reign in the hallways if the positions were to be eliminated?

The original duty of praefects was just to monitor the halls and prevent prank fire drills. The decision to award praefects community service hours was a later one, and many students maintain that the policy is unfair. The lines to sign up for senior praefect duties were long this spring, and any student with a good attendance record who is not failing any subject is eligible. One senior who wished to remain anonymous regretted that he wasn't in line early enough, "Now I'll actually have to do real community service." So if you're interested in joining the ranks, remember to line up early and start saving, because it costs three dollars to get your lanyard.

Blessed are these days of wintry storm
For even in the coldest of colds
We have our love to keep us warm
To caress and to hold
Let rain snow and sleet
Keep the warmth of spring at bay
For I have in my company the sweetest of sweets
My claim to heaven from the month of May
Happy holidays, Ying Ying!
Hugs & kisses - Jin Bin

I AM NOT OINGOING	I *heart* MAYA Love Sophia	Happy Holidays from Chinese Culture and Language Club, meeting every Wednesday in room 123. Food occasionally provided.	Happy Christmikkah! To: Leanna, Katie, Dierdre, Jennifer, Sam. Merry Christmas to Mr. Keel and his guinea pig CHICO.
The Road to Jericho	THE FLOOR IS STICKY!	Happy Holidays to all my friends! Janine Hayley Greg Lauren Lily Lizardo Channel Brenna Brian Chenglin Amanda Javiar Kelsey Candace James Keisha Melissa Joe Vicky Sara Mike Nicole Courtney And anyI I forgot.	Joy to the fishies In the Deep blue sea, Joy to you and me Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...Jack Frost nipping at you nose.
Qin Dynasty LIVES!!!!	Dear friends, this is a honest Christmas greeting: I hope you sleep well over the vacation. With love, Yi	Merry Christmas! Love, Your secret admirer	HAPPY NEW YEAR ☺ * ALBERTA, SHELLY, LANI, TARA* 2nd LUNCH GIRLS, ALEX M. FITZ C LOVE, MARZ HAPPY 17th BDAY SHELLY!
Happy Holidays! *heart* Erin & Liz Laura Mikayla Alicia Kimberly Bianca Stephanie Nicole Caroline Courtney and hr. 019 & 018 & 027	Wanted: potential members of Junior State of America Reward: Food, Political Knowledge + Fun (Come to Room 123 on Tuesdays)	Merry Christmas eCav, Kay, Marie, Kerri, Kelsi, Jill & Christine Carboneee! From Katie	Have a HaPpY Holi-DaYs, everyone! Joyeux Noël!! Love, Jieyu
TO JENN AND FRIENDS- HAPPY HOLIDAYS- THANKS FOR GREAT MUSIC.	I *heart* THERESA Love Sophia	Happy Holidays: IZ, XZ, CW, MY, SL, KP, CC, AS, GF, LL, PK, VT, MP, SS, CC-O, EZ, The A-BOMB, mme. Hantout, Magistra Lewis, Ms. Mcdonald, Mrs. Rawdirg and Stevie! Merry Christmas my munchkins!!!! Love, Shu Yi	To Stephanie O' Conner Great Job. Love, Renee', Bobby, and Jillian

FORUM

The Arnold Amendment

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By YUCONG MA, II
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

By JAMES BARNED-SMITH, II
STAFF WRITER

The word “immigrant” means many things to many people, but one occupation to which this label still cannot be applied is “president.”

“Immigrant” does not simply mean a barely-literate minimum-wage worker. It applies to well-known media figures like Charlize Theron and yes, Arnold Schwarzenegger; it applies to prominent political figures like Madeleine Albright and Teresa Heinz-Kerry; it may even apply to the student sitting next to you in class.

Overall, naturalized Americans are given mostly the same rights and obligations as natives. We are all given the right to vote, the right to pursue happiness, and we are all obligated to serve our country by means of a draft. There is virtually no distinction in any other respect. Yet from America’s first days, the Constitution clearly stated that no foreign-born citizen could run for the office of president.

What America needs is an amendment to reform one of the last biases in the great machine of Democracy. Is there anything to be lost by the possible election of a naturalized American president? The answer is no. The experiences of an immigrant can only help to enrich the government of the United States. An immigrant president, after all, is more likely to be from a lower or middle-class background, and consequently may better recognize the specific needs for reform bills benefiting welfare, Social Security, education and health care. Perhaps a president, who comes from another nation will not be so quick to declare war and alienate potential international allies in a fight against terror.

With a non-native American president, we may also gain more respect on the international front for representing our diverse society. We are a unique nation in that we are a great melting pot of cultures, and no bias should exist to bar a citizen from seeking the highest office in the land. Prejudice is a prominent taboo in American culture, and people pride themselves on not discriminating on the basis of religion. That at least is a choice that an individual makes. So why do we still discriminate by country of origin, which is something we have no control over?

There has been much buzz in recent media about a potential bid for the presidency in 2008 by California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and while efforts to pass this reform on his behalf are appreciated, future enterprising immigrants—and not this Hollywood politician—are the main beneficiaries of this amendment.

Let’s not forget a key fact: the bone of contention here is whether a person should be given the *right* to run for president, not the presidency itself. He or she will be subject to the same scrutiny by Americans that Bush and Kerry faced not two months ago. In the end, it will all come down to the American people, and the average American should have more important concerns in mind about the candidate’s platform than his country of birth. So the real question here is, do we trust ourselves to elect a proper president?

The Founding Fathers originally inserted the non native-born clause into the Constitution because of their fear that a foreign-born European noble would bribe his way into office and find a means of returning the new nation to England’s growing empire. Such an idea was not farfetched in the 18th century, but more than 200 years later this fear is invalid. America has long prided itself on being a diverse nation that derives its power from the people. The American people are not all Caucasians. They are Hispanic, African, Asian, Middle Eastern and European; yet in spite of these diverse backgrounds, many in this category consider themselves first and foremost American. This nation was built on the back of immigrants. Is it not time to recognize that fact?

This amendment is truly a win-win situation for America: there is nothing to lose by giving over 12 million people the ability to run for president, and only a stronger nation to gain.

Article III, Clause 5: No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

This is the only such reservation in the United States Constitution—the lone office that only a native-born citizen of the United States can occupy. Anyone who has been a citizen for seven years can become a representative; anyone who has been a citizen for nine years can become a senator. No mention is made of citizenship requirements for Supreme Court justices.

Why is it of such particular importance that only native-born citizens can become president? Prejudice against immigrants and their ilk? An attempt to keep the presidency among the American elite in the long term? Please, let’s not give in to conspiracy theory here.

Proponents of the “Ahhnold Amendment” argue that this country was founded on the principles of equality and toleration for all people. As in, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...” Therefore, we should be accepting enough of naturalized citizens to allow them to run for president, be they Rhodes scholars or Austrian weightlifters-turned-actors-turned-gubernators.

There is a fundamental flaw, however, in changing Article III, Clause 5: doing so would create a distinct conflict of interest. Imagine, for instance, that a refugee from a small, totalitarian country fleeing political persecution came to the United States and became a prominent politician. If he should become president, would not such a person have a skewed view of proper policy towards his former nation?

What of people who come here as students, never quite leave, and end up as citizens? Having grown up in another country, they would have likely been indoctrinated with a sense of the natural superiority of their nation. Would any native-born US citizen deny that he has been brought up to believe in democracy as the only valid system of government? This bias, in turn, might lead to the misuse of power and an overwillingness to comply with policies good for “the homeland,” but not so good for the United States.

Yet, there is a more concrete reason for the Founding Fathers’ decision to include this provision. They believed that to have a good sense of what it is that makes this country tick and what it really means to be an American, one has to have grown up with that patriotic indoctrination: with the Star Spangled Banner, baseball, football, and the *Weekly World News*. To really understand what the United States is about, one has to have been raised with the symbols and in the systems that represent our country. A person who does not completely understand the spirit of the United States should not be the president. The Founding Fathers knew that it was not enough to be a citizen only by law; to be president, a person has to share in the heritage and customs of this country. And one must be born in that country to do that.

Still, the question remains of what to do with children born in other countries whose families move to the United States when they are very young, as is the case with many Boston Latin School students. Such people fall through an unfortunate crack in the system: although such a person may very well be raised as an American, he may still be influenced by the customs and prejudices of his nation of origin, views which his parents share. This is America—one law for all people. The same law applies to everyone, no matter how unfair it may seem. No matter how unfair the naturalized citizen law provision may be to that one group, it makes perfect sense for everyone else.

Sorry, Arnold. That’s just the way it is.

Forum Question

Do you think that immigrants should be allowed to run for President?



“Sure, why not? Every person in America is an immigrant or related to one.”

—Dandan Zhu, I



“Yes, because I am one.”

—James Roarty, II



“Yes, if they take time to become legal residents, they should have the right to run for president as citizens.”

—Firma Francisque, III



“Yes, if they have become citizens.”

—Ricky Liu, IV



“Yes, they should have just as many rights; we should have some diversity in the office.”

—Victoria Tran-Trinh, V



“I think that they should so that everyone can have a fair chance to run.”

—Ezana Girna, VI

FORUM

Thinking Small

By LISA JING, II
FORUM EDITOR

Standing in the cafeteria of the Madison Park Vocational High School, Demetra Stavrianidis is, in one respect, very much like Teresa Heinz Kerry: she is anything but quiet. At just over 5' 3", her small size and petite frame belie a much bolder personality. She speaks with conviction about the time she spent leap-frogging from one field to another, describing the path that eventually led to her teaching post at West Roxbury High School.

In Stavrianidis' eyes, West Roxbury is a unique institution in spite of the discouraging stigma that is attached to many inner-city complexes. She can recall with ease every anecdote and history that has gathered in her repertoire of stories since first arriving at the school, wordsmithing tirelessly. Come next fall, however, Stavrianidis will have a new story to add to her collection.

In July 2003, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donated \$13.8 million to the Boston Public Schools. With the grant, the Microsoft guru spearheaded a district-wide "small schools reform" which would implement a series of small career-specific schools and "learning communities" in place of the larger Boston Public complexes by September 2005. On the surface, the plan seemed flawless. Educators would be able to reform such ailing schools as West Roxbury, Hyde Park and Dorchester High at no cost to their own. In the School Committee's rushed attempt to enact these changes, however, they overlooked the most important aspect of reform: the schools themselves.

In the few months since the implementation process began, those who touted Gates' plan to the sky and who praised the performance of the South Boston Education Complex, have failed to recognize the individual needs and case that frame each of these schools. They see instead only a batch of "problems" and a list of grievances for the

resident "fairy godparent," Bill Gates, to cure.

To be fair, no (sane) being has enough energy to inspect every inch of a school. No (decaffeinated) official can assess the performance of all the thousand-some teachers in the district. At the very least, though, the Board should recognize that these schools are separate entities with separate problems, not simply "issues" to be tucked away at the bottom of a filing cabinet. All too often, it is only when one digs deep into these files, examining their pieces one by one, that one discovers just how much has been overlooked. Stavrianidis's experiences illustrate a prime example of a school left stranded by these changes.

"There was no communication," she explained, "not even between the School board and the administrators. Some people just showed up one day, thrust a packet of papers at us and told us, 'Design four new schools.'"

In an attempt to alleviate any problems, the School Committee introduced a "design team" to each of these schools whose principle responsibility, like its name suggests, was to "design" and outline the themes from which the four new schools would develop. When Stavrianidis and her colleagues proposed a plan for a writing or liberal arts school, however, the proposal was instantly shot down and labeled "impractical" by the School Board.

Stavrianidis finds fault in the concept of a "career-specific" school, arguing that to springboard students so early into a specific field will only prevent him from experiencing the true—albeit cheesy—purpose of high school: exploration. "Life is a continuous journey. You can't force someone at age 15, 16 to choose what they want to be, what they want to study. I'm an... undisclosed age and I still don't know what I want exactly."

Not everyone is so negative, however. Stencia Jovain, who is a junior at Hyde Park High, has experienced both the world of "the small and the large" and advocates confidently that each has

its own merits. Originally from Haiti, she finds that the most important aspect of a school is not simply its size or its "theme," but the way with which lessons are carried out, expressing that "a teacher [and, by extension], a school should understand its students. Big or small, nothing can improve until this happens."

On the other end of the spectrum is Phil Donahue, a 17-year-old student at the South Boston Education Complex, who is distinguished by his radio-host namesake and by his contributions to *Teens in Print*, a youth-organized newspaper at the *Boston Globe*. In his eyes, the reform plan is at best "fake."

"They shouldn't even call these new places schools," he commented frustratingly. "They should be called 'houses,' instead, like in *Harry Potter*. Nothing has changed. We just use money to pay for four headmasters, that's all."

What Donahue addresses is key to the debate waging about the reform plan as of late: has money been spent wisely, and will it create the intended effects? True, Gates was more than generous when he dumped his \$13 million on the Boston Public Schools, but how can a man living 2,000 miles away with enough money to fill the White House be able to understand what an inner-city school needs?

As the last of these 12 schools complete their transformation in September, students will file into hallways very different from the ones they left behind in June. Whether these hallways and these students will be a part of a new era of improved schools, or the victims of another failed reform plan remains to be seen. What is imperative, however, is that the needs of the students continue to be met, regardless of their environment. It is not enough for the School Board to hand down their decisions from on high: there must be constant communication between the administration and those they are endeavoring to help. In order for the full benefit of these schools to be felt, it must be the students and teachers who dictate their needs.

Objection, Defense Absent

By FRANKLINE HO, I
FORUM EDITOR

It's that time of year again, and the U.S. embassy in Havana, Cuba has all its decorations up. They have the usual classics: the giant Santa Claus, his faithful reindeer, and cutout snowflakes. But this winter, they also have a huge neon number "75" fixed to the exterior of the building that represents the number of political dissidents incarcerated in Cuba last year. U.S. diplomat James Cason says that "the decoration" is meant as criticism of Cuba's human rights violations and, despite protests from the Cuban government, will remain displayed throughout the holiday season, highlighting our government's dedication to human rights.

It is ironic, however, that moving north, one will find numerous cases of incarceration on U.S. territory. Under the Patriot Act, any individual suspected of being involved in terrorism can be detained. With that in place, Guantanamo Bay now has hundreds of "terrorists" in detention. The majority of these have been held for over a year without any hope for a fair trial, a right that is promised to POWs under the Geneva Convention. Amnesty International has

drawn much attention to Guantanamo's human rights violations, accusations that the U.S. government adamantly denies for fear of another exposure in the style of Abu Ghraib. There are actually cases in which mercenaries turned in men simply for the reward, dooming them to imprisonment even when they had been working in aid of the United States government. Dozens of inmates in the cells of Guantanamo wait patiently, with no hope for an investigation on whether or not they actually committed the crimes of which they are accused.

Moreover, one would think that Saddam Hussein, the dictator who was so steadfastly pursued by the U.S. government, would have been placed on trial shortly after his capture. He has had no legal proceedings, however, taken against him until recently—a whole year since he was first detained. He has not been allowed to contact his lawyers in Jordan during his incarceration, which is a precaution taken by the U.S. in its dealing with "terrorists" as of late. With many of the trials of Hussein's regime occurring this week, there has been significant concern that both Saddam and his subordinates will not have access to their lawyers, much less an opportunity to prepare a defense, denying them the

fair trial required for POWs. Furthermore, inmates at Belmarsh prison, or the United Kingdom's Guantanamo, recently brought a case to the House of Lords, challenging the fact that the government was holding prisoners without limit or charge. The court ruled that detention without trial did not comply with the European Convention on Human Rights.

It has been three years since the tragedies of September 11, yet we still hold on to a heightened sense of fear in the shadow of terrorism. Though steps have been taken to repeal overcompensating policies, there are still hundreds of innocent people left detached from the outside world without basis or reason. Seats will lay empty at many family tables this holiday season. The U.S. needs to start owning up to its responsibilities. In our world today, it is easy to think that we must protect ourselves at all costs. Morality, however, is an principle that must never be absent from a government's policies. We are supposed to be a civilized country. After our historical emphasis on rights, it follows that we must allow any man, any prisoner, the same opportunities that a U.S. citizen would be given. After all this effort to fight the war on terror, what good is it if we strip blameless people of their lives?

CONGRATULATIONS,
CAITLIN!

LOVE DAD, MARY, BRIG-
ID, ERIN AND TOMMY.
WE LOVE YOU!

Samantha—you are the
coolest! Merry Christ-
mas

-THE 239 GANG

**Have a Great X'mas
Vacation
Seniors! We're
almost there!**

~ Victoria B.

Falling, YOU
F ALL FAIL!
A
L
L
I
N
G
like a DUCK into your arms!
O Diana

To Tricia S,
the best section leader
for violin.

Good Luck!
~ Love Mom

**Have a Great X'mas
Vacation
Seniors! We're
almost there!**

~ Victoria B.

Felicidades!
Happy Holidays!
to everyone

Que la paz que sobre pasa todo en-
tendimiento le acompañe siempre.

Mr. Ramos
Library Tech

We love you blowfish
G2sy

Your Jamie
Geeky, non-High friends
including baby

MBTA Won't Cater to Students

By Yi Liu, II
BUSINESS MANAGER

Despite the hectic lives they lead, many Boston Latin School students are not content to just call it quits come Friday. These individuals, whether for enjoyment or to gain an edge in their college applications, participate in multiple school-related activities on Saturdays: the Handel and Haydn Society, Mock Trial, Saturday Success School, and sports teams with weekend meets, for example. These ambitious participants, for all intents and purposes, operate on a six-day school week, a phenomenon all too common in today's over-achieving society. Despite this, these students have yet to be compensated for their efforts by the transportation department.

Passes offered to student commuters by the MBTA are valid Mondays through Fridays, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. What

the MBTA does not realize, however, is that certain school-related activities do not fall within these boundaries. The Boston Latin School *Argo*, for instance, often ends after 8 p.m. during production week, while Saturday Success School, as its name suggests, takes place on Saturdays. Although some students are blessed with driver's licenses, others with rides, most must rely on MBTA transportation. Unfortunately, the T is less than willing to extend its terms.

This issue was recently revived when a conflict broke out between the MBTA and the Codman Charter School in Dorchester, which has been at odds with the association ever since it implemented a six-day school week. Codman students are required to explore "interactive" classrooms on Saturdays such as seminars at UMASS Boston, field studies on the waterfront, and visits to art museums. As a result, they are constantly forced to

pay for train fare traveling to and from "school." Despite the fact that Saturday lessons are mandatory at Codman, the MBTA has been steadfast in its position, denying even a simple modification in these students' passes.

While the Codman case illustrates a prominent example of the age-old MBTA-student feud, each of us has our own personal story, too. I myself have been kicked off the bus on Saturdays and late weekday nights. Often the bus driver would confront me with a "what'chya talkin' 'bout, there ain't no school right now! You pay ninety cents or get off the bus!" I then have to explain carefully for three minutes that I do indeed have school on Saturdays, that I am going to tutor students, that I only have a \$10 bill on me, and that I am *not* paying the fare with that. Then comes the delicate moment before a grudging "okay, but don't do that again," or a "get off the bus, you slimy liar!" Sadly, the latter

happens far more often.

If I add up all the money I spend on transportation to and from school, Mock Trial practice, and Saturday Success School for the rest of the school year, it would amount to over \$50 in fees. As a student at a public school (read: poor), \$50 is just not something I want to part with, especially when I could use it to buy coffee.

This ungenerous resolve on the part of the MBTA seems ironic in light of their recent fare increases—keeping up with the Joneses, so to speak. If the T is truly changing to keep up with the times, shouldn't they accept the fact that the schools, their partners, have also changed, and that students just don't have five day, 40-hour weeks anymore?

A Positive Influence

By ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
STAFF WRITER

If I were to approach the everyday high school student—or better yet, the everyday Boston Latin School student—and ask him to name 10 prominent black figures, what would his response be? What if that person were black? Would his response be any more profound? Students will of course break out their ten-cent Black History Month note card, and rattle off a clichéd list that includes names like Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Malcolm X. If you are really lucky, you might just hear a Langston Hughes hesitantly muttered at the end of this litany.

Unfortunately, today's American society is for the most part either opposed to or indifferent to a multi-cultural emphasis on education, especially a curriculum centered around individuals of African descent. It is almost reminiscent of Chris Rock's *Good Enough Education*. Sadly the emphasis, or rather lack of emphasis, that is placed on the teaching of African and African-American history is equivalent to the watered-down content of the GED. This predicament brings up one question: what does it mean to be black? And I do not mean an "I have a dream," "...Plymouth Rock landed on us" or "kujichagulia" blackness. No, the blackness to which I refer cannot be defined by one single quote or event.

The question brings forth a mist of ambiguity and awkwardness. Is blackness simply a phenotypic property, or is it a culture, a style, a state of mind, an awareness? For the past four years, Saturday mornings at the Ella J. Baker House in Dorchester have served as catalysts to understanding and analyzing this question more profoundly. Located on Washington Street, and named after the civil rights activist who devoted her life to advocating for young people, the house is almost an extension of Baker's work: educating and expanding the minds of young, black intellectuals.

Founded and organized by Eugene and Jacqueline Rivers, two of the most prominent advocates for black youth in Boston, the W. E. B. Du Bois Society hosts an engaging enrichment program to the black community themed around the history, sociology, philosophy and culture of both Africa and the regions affected by the African diaspora. The program has helped to shape a new generation

of blacks by creating a peer network of young, motivated students of African and African-American descent who attend academically challenging schools within Boston. It trains them to speak out and play an important role in contributing to the black community. Students are provided with readings from prominent black authors, such as Kara Walker and Olaudah Equiano. The texts are selected by Harvard professors who convene six times a year with the 20 or so students at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African-American Research at Harvard University to discuss and analyze the works. The program has become a haven of sorts—an alternative to the overt absence of and even aversion to multicultural studies in various secondary schools within Boston. Ultimately, the course provides students with a more profound interpretation to that same initial question: what does it mean to be black?

William Edward Burghart Du Bois once described the American Negro as having suffered from a psychological rift, which he refers to as "a two-ness." "One ever feels his two-ness—an American, a Negro, two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder." The concept of a double consciousness is reflected in the reality of existing between two different worlds, of being both black and American in an America that once hated, feared and rejected blackness. Although Du Bois was referring specifically to African-Americans of his time, the quote could very easily be applied towards blacks as an entity today.

In many ways, this sentiment of "two-ness" still resonates deeply within the mentality of the black community. On one hand, there is an obligation to radiate our heritage and our ancestry with pride and passion through academic and social success and excellence. On the other hand, however, there are those who equate

scholastic achievement with so-called "whiteness." I am sure many young black students can relate to such ignorant and juvenile comments as "why you got to act so white" or "you sound so white" when one applies formality to his speech, mannerisms or attire. For many blacks, the association of being white continues to



COURTESY OF GEOCITIES.COM

penetrate with an ignominious stigma—causing a purification of their "blackhood" by purging a supposed "whiteness" from their identity. Consequently, the acuity of the black image and "what it means to be black" becomes convoluted and distorted. In actuality, this supposed aversion to education that the Black community has purportedly adopted is nonexistent. The problem instead lies within a variety of stereotypes and generalizations rooted in the turbulent history of Blacks not only in this country, but all over the world. Therefore, it becomes imperative for the Black community to inform itself, enrich itself, and educate itself with its *own* history.

The W. E. B. Du Bois Society takes this initiative and is a support group that Black youth can not only emulate, but also admire—an element that I feel is severely lacking within the Black community today. The program is a vital and invaluable component to the progression of the Black community. The continuation and endurance of this program, however, require additional support and the willingness of others to take up the load of volunteerism. It is our duty to make sure that the W. E. B. Du Bois Society is provided with the support required to sustain its presence and longevity "by any means necessary."

Wanted:

Yuanjian Li

Reward: \$3 Trillion
(for brains, beauty and a ...)

Happy Hanukkah
Merry Christmas
Happy Kwanzaa

~ Ms. Powell

Felicem diem
natalem Christi,
Magistra Trainor!

Happy Holidays!

For Chinese Culture and
Language Club, meeting
every Wednesday in room
123. Food occasionally
provided.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO HIDDEN VOICES!
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR
TIME AND EFFORT!

L.Z.

Merry Christmas Steve!!!

Love,
Your Big Sis

Declaration of the Rights of the BLS Student

By JULIA ARNOUS, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Next fall, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will visit Boston Latin School in order to assess our performance in such areas as "Philosophy and Objectives, Curriculum, Governance and Management, Staff, Student Support Services, Resources, and Student and Community Life." It is without a doubt that Boston Latin does indeed exceed a significant number of these requirements, yet those requirements left unmet may lead to an unfortunate consequence: an unaccredited diploma.

When it comes time for the NEASC representatives to decide whether Boston Latin has met Section B: STANDARD TWELVE "Curriculum revisions shall be made on a regular basis after consideration of current educational thinking and pedagogy," or Section B: STANDARD THIRTEEN "Administrators and teachers shall use the results of student assessment to evaluate and revise curriculum and methodology on a continuing basis," the Latin School's current teaching practices may come into question. "Current educational thinking and pedagogy" does not advise teachers, after all, to spend approximately one third of their allotted class times explaining to students the amount of patience it takes to be a teacher. To be sure, the majority of the faculty members are quite capable of creating legitimate lesson plans without reverting to lectures on the corruption of youth, the downfall of society, and the death—no, murder—of the classics, but there are those whose students would on occasion benefit from a few revisions of curriculum and methodology.

A stagnant curriculum is not the only issue that must be addressed before the NEASC's visit. Over the past several years, Boston Latin's paper shortage has been, at times, quite severe. Though the issue seems trivial, paper is needed in ev-

ery class; without it, the learning process is delayed. Though Latin School is by no means responsible for its lack of funds, this shortage must be kept in mind as Section C: STANDARD SEVEN states that "The financial resources of the school shall be capable of sustaining a sound educational program, consistent with its stated philosophy and objectives, and of providing for long-term stability." Several teachers have begun hoarding reams of paper, and the situation is by no means a stable one.

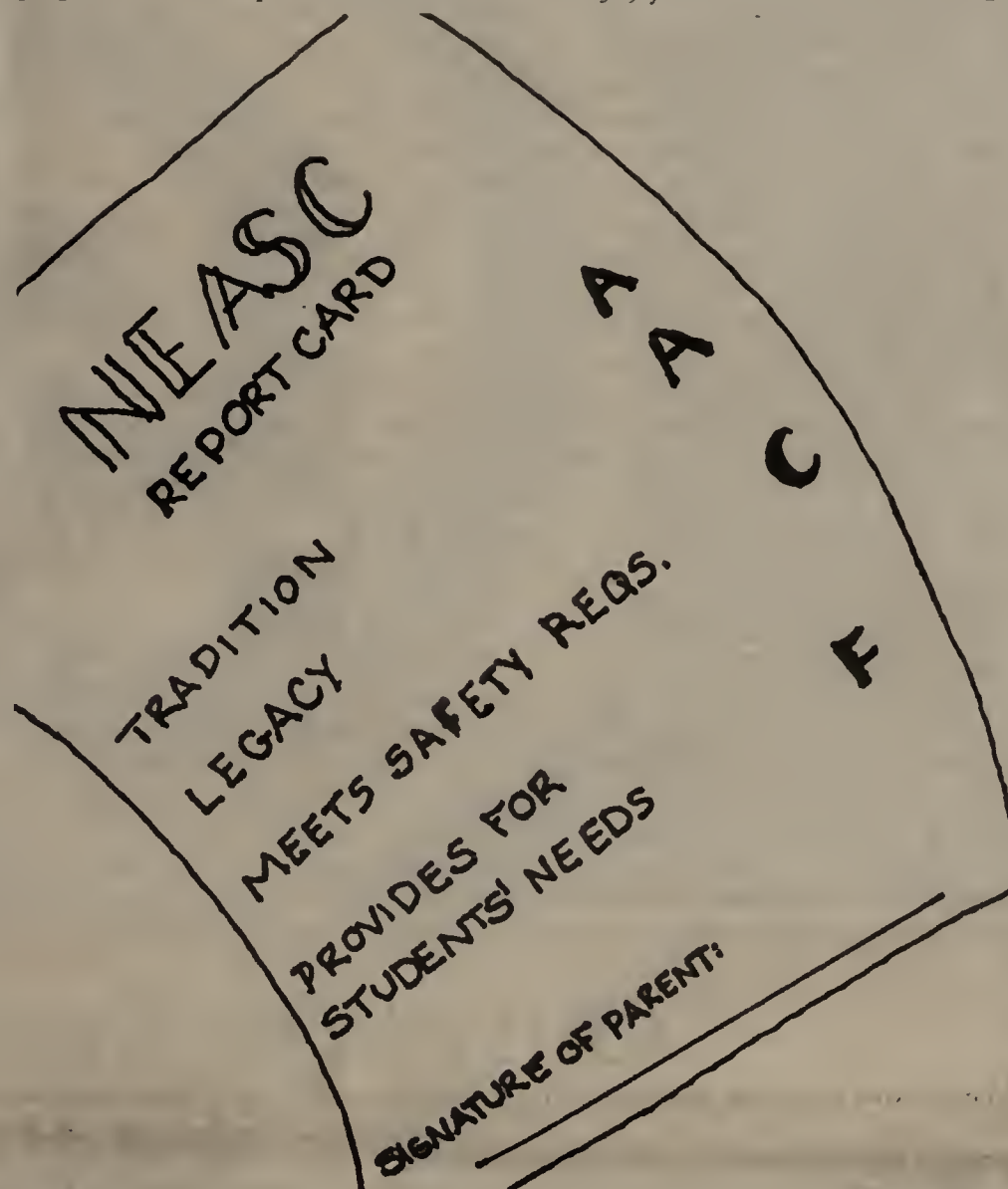
Section E: STANDARD SIX "The school shall provide appropriate guidance services, including academic and personal counseling as well as career/tertiary education advice for secondary students." Aside from seniors and juniors overwhelmed by the college application process, and a few students in the lower classes who need some help getting through their classes, most students see their guidance counselors a maximum of twice a year, if at all. The administration should consider that perhaps, along with the mission statement, students should be made to memorize their guidance counselor's names, though the school's eight counselors may be in need of a similar assignment as they are currently responsible for a total of 2,428 students.

Section F: STANDARD ONE "The school shall provide or arrange for such services as are required in support of its program offerings, and shall ensure that food, security, transportation, cleaning, and other services meet acceptable standards of safety and comfort." For Boston Latin School, this standard is questionable. Although school lunches, by law, must comply with certain standards, they are not necessarily meeting standards of comfort. Neither is transportation, as students are simply sent on their way with T passes and continuously punished for being late when trains break down. Furthermore, based upon the obvious ease with which visitors, whether legitimate or

otherwise, may enter the building, many students do not feel either comfortable or safe in the school environment. This feeling is only compounded by visits to the student bathrooms, most of which regularly run out of such niceties as toilet paper and the suspicious pink substance purported to be soap. Section F: STAN-

that Boston Latin School bathroom facilities will live up to them.

Despite the numerous requirements that Boston Latin School has met so far in its quest for reaccreditation, there are many aspects of the school that must be reevaluated, no matter how hard it is for a 369-year-old institution to consider



BY ANNEKE SCHWOB

DARD THREE "The school shall meet safety requirements of the local authorities and of the accrediting association(s)." Though these "safety requirements" are not elaborated upon, it is highly unlikely

ideas of reform. It seems unlikely that significant improvements will take shape by next October, and our prestigious standing in the educational community may be forfeited.

What Would Darwin Do?

By QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY V,
LISA JING II, FRANKLINE HO, I
STAFF WRITER & FORUM EDITORS

In an odd twist of fate, supporters of gay marriage and Charles Darwin will now have a new foe to face—and this time, it's not the Church.

The school boards in both Georgia and Texas have banned the appearance of "taboo" material from their classroom textbooks, citing the "erroneous" definition of marriage and an unruly evolution theory as their controversial hot potatoes.

The Texas Board of Education argued last month that marriage as "a lifelong union between two individuals" was inappropriate and "hazardous" in its promotion of "asexual stealth." Led by member Terri Leo, the group urged publishers to redefine it as "a lifelong union between a man and a woman," and a family as being structured with a "mother and father." Given Texas' position as a significant consumer in the textbook industry, publishers were easily swayed to the state school board's whims.

Unfortunately, opinions and politics are all what this debacle is about. Sure, textbooks are subject to numerous revisions and editions, but they should not be changed on political whim. *The preservation of family values and the sanctity*

of marriage? Please! If we were to argue old school and tradition here, the actions of the Texas Board of Education would go against everything ever taught



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in kindergarten from the early days of the Mastodon to the last of the one-room schoolhouse. Have we not always preached that "family" is simply a body of people who love each other, or was everyone else absent on that day? In its limited definition, the Board has alienated not only gay couples, but all those other "families" who are not normal enough to be composed of a mother, father, child, and guinea pig. Instead, a grandparent slipped in here, and an aunt, there—and suddenly, that holy, sanctified state known as "family" is ruined. Family cannot be

defined: it is a mentality, a sense of belonging. It is that feeling you get in your stomach every year when you have to put on your odious Aunt Sue's moss-colored

sweater, but that you wear anyway so not to hurt her feelings.

In Georgia, a similar debate erupted regarding the addition of "disclaimer stickers" to biology texts, specifically targeting the Darwinist content contained within. Although such arguments are supported by a national law that allows scientific theory to be examined, questions of free speech have consequently arisen: if such a label were to be included, would it not detract from a student's reading experience? The credibility of evolution would be called into question, chipped away at,

and in effect, debased in comparison to the other (perhaps less credible and even less ingenuous) topics found in the same text. Moreover, would a fact or theory matter to a student who forgets every word of a text five years from now? Not that biology is insignificant, but truth be told, why concentrate on so trivial a detail and focus on such a small disclaimer notice when greater problems exist? What of the very quality of the textbook, itself? What is there to be gained from examining a crumb when the entire book is flawed? Next we will be seeing these "disclaimer labels" on novels like 1984, informing students that the book is fictitious and has not happened (yet).

It is discouraging to witness after so many years and so many attempts to separate religion from state that people are still intent on elbowing their way into strictly "informative" texts. School is a place where students should be educated comprehensively, uninhibited by outside bias. It is not another battlefield for a Kerry and Bush showdown or a Church versus state gun-off. These school boards should focus on teaching these students for a change, rather than bickering about the credibility of creationist theories and the dangers of homosexuality. After all, one only needs to ask, "What would Darwin do?" and be able to answer quite confidently: *use his brain.*

FORUM

A Holiday Predicament

BY ANNEKE SCHWOB, II
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is one of the most pleasant and enjoyable times of the year...

And there's this really nice bridge, see, in Brooklyn, that I'm trying to get rid of...

You get the point. Anyone who claims to love the holiday season is either psychotic or working for Toys 'R' Us. December is a season of pain, stress and serious mental breakdowns, regardless of whether you practice Christianity, Judaism or Gross Materialism. This stress is only compounded if you come from a family of mixed religions. Just think of the conflicts. Christmas Tree or Hanukkah Bush? (Christmas Tree). Latkes or figgy pudding? (Latkes). Dreidl or stockings? Red or blue wrapping paper? Midnight mass or eight nights of blessings? The list goes on.

Some families solve this problem by celebrating neither holiday, so no one ends up happy (except the kids, who get presents just because it's December, no strings attached). Some celebrate both, so everyone ends up in the hospital with nervous breakdowns. Some even convert to Paganism and meditate their way through December, leaving everyone happy *except* for the kids, who wonder why all their friends got Very Expensive

Elmo™ for Christmas/Hanukkah and they didn't. And then some people... combine the two?

Yes, indeed, ladies and gentlemen. They combine the two. Thanks to such right-thinking groups as "MixedBlessings," a Raleigh-based company headed

"Mais non!" you cry. "Ridiculous!" you exclaim. I agree. It *is* ridiculous. Why, after all, should we stop there? Surely, Chrismukkah itself is unfairly biased and denominational. What about all those Muslim-Jewish families out there? Or those who celebrate



BY ANNEKE SCHWOB (II)

by the husband/wife team of Michelle and Ron Gompertz, the distinction of religion will never again hinder the holiday season. Rather than market those limited "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah" cards, they have rather combined the two as the kitschy, diversity-friendly "Chrismukkah."

Kwanzaa? Are we not unfairly excluding them? Why should we stop at only two generations? Sure, the parents may be Jewish and Christian, but maybe they had Muslim ancestors. Maybe there's a Buddhist in the family. While we're being PC, we might as well go the whole hog. Personally, I advocate

the combination of all winter holidays into one large conglomerate. A New Lunar Chrismukkanzaamadan, if you will. The months between October and March could become a shopping orgy, as absolutely everyone rushes to buy Very Expensive Elmo™ for their little treasures. Forget red and green, blue and white, red and gold. We could combine all our color schemes together into one all-purpose "Holiday brown." (It would look a little like rotting leaf mulch, but who cares?) We could join together with our friends and family in a whole-hearted celebration of credit card debts and the warm fuzzies brought on by kicking the stuffing out of all the *other* parents who had queued up for the last Very Expensive™ Elmo. Nothing warms a parent's heart quite like watching their little Sally/Jimmy open their New Lunar Chrismukkanzaamadan present, turn to their parents with shining eyes, and say, "but I wanted Very Expensive Tap Dancing Elmo™!"

There will be detractors, of course. There will be those who will stand by, outraged, throughout the whole celebration and cry about the birth of Jesus, and the Festival of Lights. They will denounce the materialism pervading our society, and wail about the cheapening of centuries of tradition. Pay them no heed. They clearly have no idea about true holiday spirit.

Out of the Kremlin's Grasp

BY THOMAS GRAZIANO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Viktor Yushchenko epitomizes the hope of a nation. He is the tens of thousands of demonstrators who pitch tents in Kiev's main square; he is the man, the woman, the husband and student withstanding days of subzero temperatures; he is the Orange Revolution and, most importantly, the spirit of democracy.

In a compromise signed on December 9, 2004, Ukraine sealed a 402-21 parliamentary vote that would adopt electoral and constitutional reforms to its current political system, grounding the nation in a more solid democratic system. However, the most important question still remains: can Ukraine truly change?

In recent weeks, Ukraine has been thrust into the forefront of the global media, winning such accolades as "a nation bent on change" and a "revolution from which the world can learn." The problems that have plagued this country since its break from the Soviet Union are not new, however: the growing gap between Russia's vision for the former Soviet sphere of influence and that of the West has been a long-waging battle uphill.

For years, Ukraine has been subject to the repressive regime of outgoing President Leonid Kuchma whose "policies" and "practices" have had dissenting politicians like Yushchenko poisoned, and journalists executed for providing countervailing views to state propaganda. While Yushchenko is clearly the man to rekindle hope for his nation, he faces stiff resistance from neighboring Russia. President Vladimir Putin has done everything in his power to stop Ukraine's geopolitical shift towards the West. Before and after the contested election, Putin supported

Viktor Yanukovich and, fearing further erosion on the former Soviet sphere of influence, denounced international calls for a recount as Western "interference." In spite of a united European-American front, Putin still has his own cards to play.

Russia's energy resources are vast, for instance, and when the state-owned energy giant Gazprom finishes its acquisition of the oil firm Yukos, it will virtually be able

election on December 26. Yet, it marks a minor victory for outgoing President Leonid Kuchma as well. Through the bill, Kuchma will be able to reduce the power of the incoming president by stripping him of his authority to appoint his own government; and touting this change as a system of "checks and balances," Kuchma will be able to worm his way to power through allies in Parliament.



AP PHOTO

to "turn off" all the power in Europe. Moreover, Russia has shored up ties with Iran, selling to Tehran nuclear equipment and materials, to the dismay of the Bush administration. Such close ties to a member of the so-called "Axis of Evil" could prove particularly destructive should Iran successfully construct a nuclear weapon. If there is one outside force hell-bent on suppressing the will of the people in Ukraine, it is Russia.

With the introduction of the "compromise" bill, however, even the Kremlin's meddling may not be enough to prevent the spoiling of Colonel Putin's Christmas. The European Union and the United States immediately supported the bill, while Yanukovich deemed it a *coup d'état* — an interesting choice of words considering his own transparent power grab. To be sure, this compromise promises drastic reform in electoral law and ensures a more secure

In the days following the election, Viktor Yushchenko has become a living symbol of the struggle of Russia and the West over the fate of his country. In 2001, he was ousted seemingly without grounds from his position as Prime Minister. The reason is simple now: Yushchenko has made it clear that he will do everything he can to strengthen ties with the West. He has indicated he would go so far as to bring Ukraine into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the latter prospect being particularly odious to Russia as NATO was established in the first place to counter Soviet Union power.

Regardless of what the outcome of the election may be, relations between Russia and the West have been permanently altered. While Putin has proven all too eager to sacrifice the will of an entire nation for his own political gain, a fair process in Ukraine and a triumph against this lingering Soviet shadow is vital. As ex-Secretary of State Colin Powell has said, "Ukrainian and Russian authorities are hearing a clear message from North America and Europe, in diplomatic stereo, and that stereo sound makes a difference. And what do we say? Let the people decide." In a nation so long repressed by Soviet plutocracy, the will of the people must be represented.

YI LIU!

YOU ARE NOT
GETTING ANY
PRESENTS.

Missing: Will and Norman's hot butts.

Please help — they really miss them.

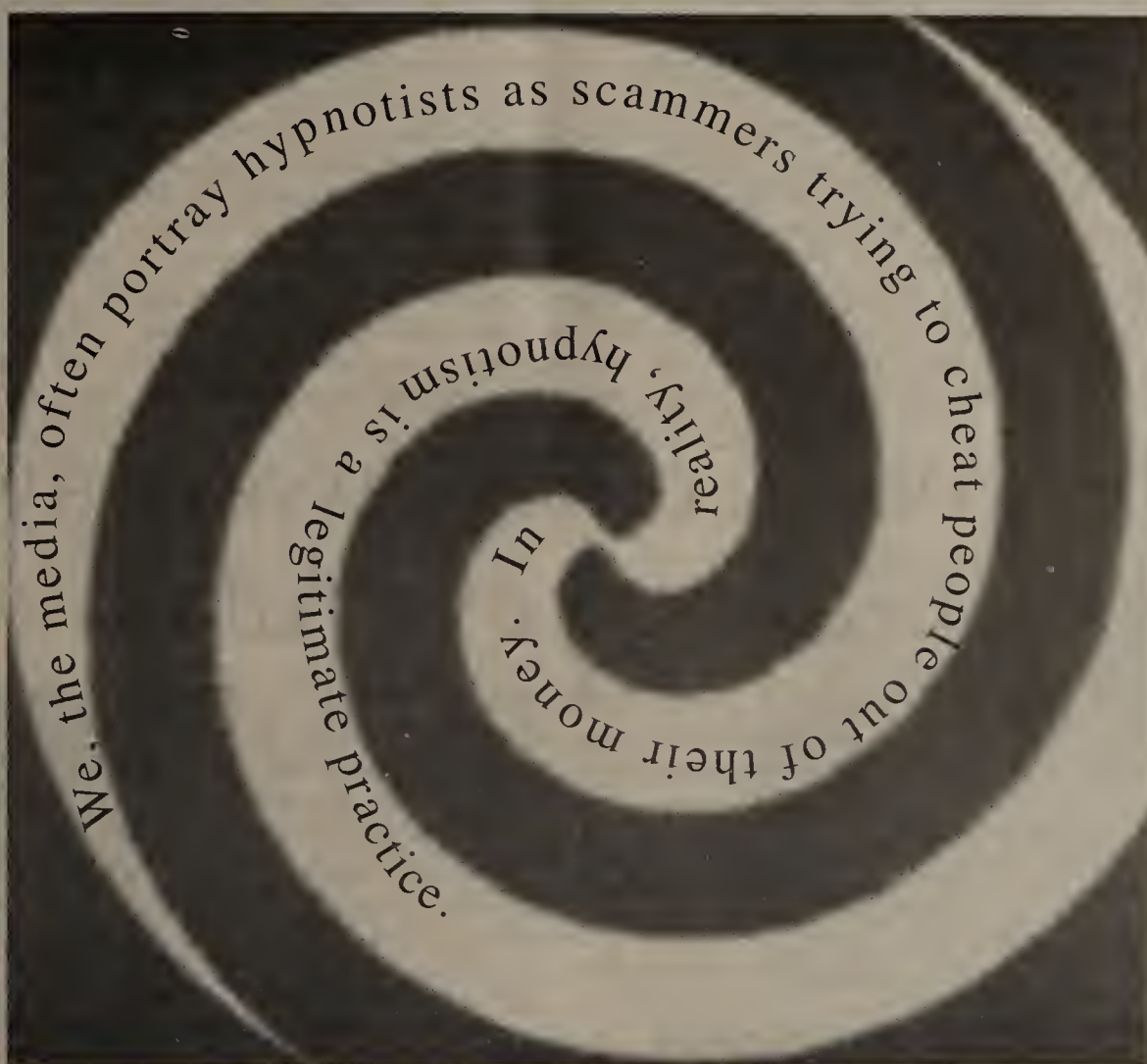
Happy
Birthday
Martha!

To Kiki, Megan, M-F, Ashton, Becky, Kasey, Amanda
Adam + Jeff:

It's been an awesome 6
years! Love you all

—Liz

The Fact and Fiction of Hypnotism



BY ALINA VORONOV, II & OLIVIA
PAQUETTE, II
STAFF WRITERS

In existence since the 1700s, hypnotism has been used often in the fields of medicine, science and entertainment. But the media often skewers the truth of hypnotism by reporting misleading information about it.

There are many hypnotic methods; the most famous is having the subject focus on an object. When in deep concentration, such as when reading a book or playing an instrument, one is in a sense hypnotized. Because one is so focused, one can easily ignore external influences.

Hypnotists like Russ Burgess use another way to achieve the same result. Referred to as the "rapid" technique, this method forces the subject to "surrender his conscious control" to the hypnotist. The hypnotist swiftly repeats commands in an authoritative manner to force the subject to obey. The result of this technique depends on the personality of the subject.

Those who surrender themselves to a hypnotist fall into "a trance state characterized by extreme suggestibility, relaxation and heightened imagination." As a result, they follow any command, from the simple (sit down in a chair) to the more complex (judge this quasi-*American Idol* performance). Many have proposed

that the subject's mental state results from a change in electrical activities in the brain. Another popular idea is that the subject is able to retrieve memories that he could never have recovered without the aid of a hypnotist, such as memories from the womb. Not only is this claim unproven, but it has been negated by scientific studies.

There is no real scientific explanation for hypnotism; not enough research has been done in the field. Some associate hypnotism with magic or witchcraft; others define it as an unexplored human power. Many hypnotists themselves are unsure of how to explain it. The only certainty is that the mind is a powerful

catalyst. When the mind is convinced, the body follows. Skeptics use this, appropriately named the "placebo effect," to explain the supernatural effects of hypnotism.

Religious groups tend to be against hypnotism. There are scores of religious websites chastising the practice of hypnotism, regarding it as a sin. In contrast, proponents of hypnotism see it as an effective means of achieving almost anything. Hypnotism is even used in court to help witnesses recall events that are too difficult to remember.

Hypnotism, whether real or false, does make for good entertainment.

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Poets Tell Life Stories at Spoken Word

BY NATANAELLE ORISMA, II
STAFF WRITER

The room is silent and the kids listen attentively. She speaks with such emotion that they all nod in agreement and continue to listen, eager for more. "Poetry, 'Where are you? Do you live somewhere new?' He looked into my eyes and said 'I live inside of you.'" she concludes and applause consumes the room.

Shaina Gilbert (II) is just another poet declaiming her piece "My Love, Poetry" at the Spoken Word Club.

Every Thursday, after school, an audience gathers in room 118 and waits for poets like Gilbert to take the floor. Usually, four to five poets perform their work, which ranges from two to three pieces each. A typical performance includes a brief introduction of the piece by the poet followed by the poem itself.

Poets like Caleb Berhane (II) and Bree Roberson (II) have all shared pieces that dealt with love, politics, anger, and current events. Most of the issues that have been brought up in the pieces performed are real life experiences and events.

Occasionally, a professional poet drops by to perform for Boston Latin School students, often bringing in copies of their books or CDs as well. Gius Li and Ching are two of the several nationally ac-

credited poets who have also shared their work at the Spoken Word Club. Together, these poets along with the poets of the Latin School, have created pandemonium in the small room from the nonstop flow of talent that they display.

So how was it that Boston Latin became a mini Apollo Theatre within itself? "I saw a lot of people writing and rapping and I felt that they didn't have an outlet

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A & E

Poet Life Stories at Spoken Word

Continued from page 11

within the school to express that creativity. So I collaborated with others and came up with the Spoken Word Club", says Vinh Hua (II) about how the club came about. With Ms. Powell as advisor and Sandra Lee (II) and Neysa Shum (II) as supporting club officers, the Spoken Word Club has taken off successfully. There is an active participation from every club member because everyone attends the meetings, publicizes the poetry slam shows and performs their poetry.

Many projects are in the works including a poetry book publication, which is a compilation of the poetry from the club's poets put together by the club officers. Members of the Spoken Word Club want to make it clear that their project is very different from *The Register* in that it features pieces that deal with more realistic issues like poverty, peer pressure, violence and racism. Another reason why the club is publishing this poetry collection is to provide a place where kids can really express their thoughts, ideas and feelings without

getting rejected because their grammar isn't precise or because the slang they use isn't embraced by others.

Everyone has a story to tell and by allowing people to publish such stories, the club is hoping that others will talk more openly about their feelings and deal with issues that are often kept quiet. Students of all classes and teachers are strongly encouraged to come to a Thursday meeting to experience this hidden talent at Boston Latin. There are no judges, just a welcoming audience and a friendly atmosphere where

people are able to comfortably tell their stories, their true feelings and their life experiences.

Poetry brings out so much emotion in people. Many in the audience reach for tissues after a poet has recited his piece. Even those who usually dislike poetry will walk out of a meeting having learned something new or having been introduced to a key issue in the community. Everyone is invited to attend the weekly open-mic sessions on Thursdays at 2:30 after school in room 118. Get ready to snap your fingers.

Hollywood Courts Broadway:
An Ongoing Love AffairBY YUONG MA, II
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

Hollywood has found a new source of inspiration for blockbuster success, and this new city of lights is far from the sidewalks of California. In recent years, moviegoers have been treated to adaptations from another classical American form of entertainment: Broadway.

This trend began in 2001, when renowned director Baz Luhrmann brought the Parisian musical drama *Moulin Rouge* to the American silver screen. Nicole Kidman (Satine) and Ewan McGregor (Christian) starred in *Moulin Rouge*, which won two Oscars, paving the way for a series of musical revivals. Luhrmann had resurrected, in the words of David Ansen of *Newsweek* magazine, "the Hollywood musical - a genre all but left for dead."

In December 2002, director Rob Marshall followed with his own Broadway adaptation, *Chicago*, starring Renee Zellweger, Richard Gere and Catherine Zeta-Jones. This dark satire of the Roaring Twenties proved to be a gamble worth taking. When Oscar time rolled around, *Chicago* went home happy with over a dozen nominations and six wins, including the coveted Best Picture. This top award was a milestone last achieved by a musical adaptation in 1968 with *Oliver!*.

This holiday season, a notable vacuum is seen in the movie market. For the first time in three years, there will be no *Lord of the Rings* and Peter Jackson will not be dominating the box office. Among the main contenders this year is a younger musical seeking to fill the shoes left by *Moulin Rouge* and *Chicago*. *The Phantom of the Opera*, based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, tells the tale of a young chorus girl in Paris tutored by the Phantom of

the Opera House. Adapted as a musical by Andrew Lloyd-Webber, *Phantom* opened in London's West End in 1986 to wide success. Almost twenty years later, director Joel Schumacher hopes to draw the theatre-based demographic and pull in potential historical romance enthusiasts.

With the market getting crowded with such productions, there are re-



percussions on both coasts. Earlier this year, Kristin Chenoweth received many positive reviews for her starring role in *Wicked*, currently one of the most popular and financially secure productions on Broadway. Despite such reviews, Chenoweth quit her role in early July to star in the upcoming movie musical *Asphalt Beach*, set for release in 2005. Possibly an isolated incident, it may have nothing to do with New York's talent immigration to California, but this union of film and theatre predictably has some Broadway fans alarmed. Nevertheless, movies are being viewed as positive publicity for Broadway

itself. Although few musicals opened this past season in New York, there are still many long-running shows such as *The Lion King*, *Chicago*, *RENT*, and *Wicked*. Broadway still holds out hope that box-office profit for the silver screen will translate into better theatre sales.

The 1996 bohemian rock-musical *RENT*, by Jonathan Larson, is the next in a long line of adaptations for the silver screen, with production beginning in Los Angeles early in 2005. Fans of the Broadway production greeted the news of some original cast members reprising their roles with some trepidation. It has been almost a decade since they first appeared in *RENT*, and since the musical calls for an ensemble of twenty-something starving artists in East Village, NYC, fans have good reason to be concerned. As always, there is also the growing worry that film versions of these beloved favorites will be cheap, commercialized and Hollywood. As the Broadway stage itself fills up with actors and actresses turned singers, like Drew Lachey in *RENT* and Brooke Shields in the revival of *Wonderful Town*, popular sentiment is hesitant at best to embrace this new medium for the Broadway musical.

Despite this cool reception by the Broadway community, Hollywood has forged on with a full slate of new musicals to convert. There is talk of bringing *Wicked* to the big screen, and John C. Reilly, a star of *Chicago*, has been in discussions with Miramax to play a part in *Guys and Dolls*. In 2005, Susan Stroman will direct



the movie version of *The Producers*, which graced Boston stages last year, and one can only guess what else Hollywood has up its sleeve.

Hollywood's growing fascination with Broadway is just another love affair in the ever-expanding movie industry. In addition to drawing inspiration from showtunes and musicals, book and play adaptations are also popping up at an increasing rate, as evidenced by recent films such as *The Polar Express* and *Closer*, adapted respectively from a book and a play. Thus, along with revivals of old favorites like *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and new pop culture idols such as *Harry Potter* in the works, moviegoers can also expect to hear a few more showtunes.

Idol Problems Not a Roadblock

BY DANIELA HUYNH, I
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

There are six contestants left, and as the pool shrinks, nerves and anticipation run high. Looking beyond the singing abilities of its contestants, *BLS Idol* has restructured its staff and is working more efficiently than at the start of production. In the last few weeks, the producers and creators of *BLS Idol* have added new personnel to the production crew and many items on its tentative schedule have become confirmed dates.

With taping completed three weeks ago, producers Dominic French (II), Andrew Slotnick (I), and new film editor Burt Carter (I) are assembling and

editing film clips of the taped singers for BLSTV every morning. There have been a number of complaints from the student body regarding the lack of audiovisual effects in some homerooms. The solution, French says, is to "go catch a bit of it at another homeroom."

Due to a limited number of tech-savvy personnel and lack of time, not much can be done to fix these problems. These setbacks are often due to technical issues with homeroom computers rather than faulty broadcast equipment. Even more distressing is the issue of how annoyingly repetitive the occurrence of these malfunctions are. The best option for students in improperly equipped homerooms has been, and continues to

be, moving to another homeroom with a functioning setup.

French, Slotnick and Carter have also jumped a hurdle by revising voting: the original system called for the distribution of ballots in every homeroom, but was discarded for logistical reasons. Every Friday a ballot box is placed in front of the Dining Hall for voters to pick that week's best contestant. There is one problem: voters tend to vote more than once. The result is that a giant proportion of votes goes to one singer, and the competition quickly becomes a popularity contest. Also, some voters have not even bothered to view the morning broadcasts. No system is foolproof. The *BLS Idol* crew has considered

other methods of polling, but none can simultaneously assure voter privacy, time efficiency and fairness. It seems that the only thing that can be done to quell voter mania is to "prevent students from jamming more than one vote at a time [into the ballot box]", according to Megan Pitts (I), an occasional guest host with Liam McCabe (I).

Even with its flaws, *BLS Idol* has generated interest in the student body. Slotnick (I) remembers that "the hardest part [of producing *BLS Idol*] was the taping because we had to accommodate so many people's schedules." With the recording sessions behind them, *BLS Idol* has gained much success and is poised for more in January.

A.S.I.A Silent on Riveting Sing-Off

By Andrew Klein, IV
Contributing Writer

This Thursday marks the end of the 2004 portion of the school year and Asian Students in Action (A.S.I.A.) will be holding its 6th annual sing-off. As in previous years, this 13-act sing-off will showcase the Boston Latin School's soloists and musical groups, with guest performances by Hidden Voices and the BLS Wolftones.

Some of the songs will be performed a cappella and many of today's popular artists will be featured in this holiday concert. With songs ranging from classic Disney tunes to foreign songs, the holiday sing-off is characterized by diverse musical performances. This is not just the last concert of 2004, but it is also a competition that will be judged by Mr. Avery, Mercy Imahiyerobo (I), Winnie Kyi (II), and Olivia Paquette (II). There are three unknown prizes, said an officer of A.S.I.A. last week on terms of anonymity.

The members of A.S.I.A. seem very intent on producing a notable show. With every executive officer in charge of a segment of the show, President Tracy Wu (I) is hoping that everything will run as smoothly as possible. The other executive officers are involved in lighting and music, stage design, ticket sales, and other minor details that will ensure that the show runs smoothly. Most members of A.S.I.A. will be making up the security personnel, which aims to provide the highest level of safety to all the performers and every

member of the audience. The security level is not expected to be as high as during Asian Night. With the date of the performance drawing near, there have not been any notable problems, but A.S.I.A. officials have been silent about any possible bumps in the road.

As it is during most shows, the mood of the organizers is very tense while they try to make the show as interesting as it can possibly be. Because of this, it was hard to accumulate very much information about the show from the organizers, but one longtime sing-off performer, Francesca Morency (I), was available to comment. She describes the annual sing-off as, "An experience you won't find other places. From the second you walk in the door you are surrounded by talented individuals and performances," says Morency. "The MCs will make you laugh, the singers will dazzle your ears, and there is dancing if you like dance. The all-around entertainment makes this annual holiday sing-off an experience not to be missed." Morency and Nancy Shum (I) will be performing a rendition of Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey's "When You Believe."

Though in past years A.S.I.A. has been hard pressed to attract a large part of the Boston Latin community, it hopes for a better turnout this year. "I want to encourage everyone in the BLS community to attend the show," says Morency. "Once you attend, I guarantee you won't be disappointed."

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas
to all of the great helpers at Windslow
Farm Sanctuary from A.C.T (Animal
Care Team)

Ms. O'Malley

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
THANKS TO MS. SYL-
VESTER & ALL IN GUID-
ANCE

FROM THE O'S

**HAPPY HOLI-
DAYS TO ALL
BLS
STUDENTS
AND THEIR
FAMILIES.**

J. MONTAGUE



Final Show January 7
bls_idol@yahoo.com

Merry Christmas

from
Fred, Deb, Cate
and Allison Putnam

To Becky, Bobby and Bridget

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Love,
Auntie, Grandma, Jeannie and
Aunt Carol Ann

"GO SASHA GO"

LOVE, MEGAN &
HER PARENTS

T & Steve Good luck
in Terms 3, 4 & 5

Love,
Mom & Dad

Liam McCabe: The Little Drummer Boy

Arts Spotlight
by Louis Frank, I

In the eighth grade, Liam McCabe used drumsticks as an excuse to quit hockey. It was unclear as to how much he really enjoyed the instrument, especially because he started in the school band less experienced than the other drummers. Now, as a senior, anyone can see that Liam is one of the most committed musicians in the Boston Latin School music program. He practices constantly, and his schedule is filled with rehearsals of various kinds.

Liam simply cannot stop himself from joining as many musical groups as possible, because everyone begs him to be a part of their lineup. You may recognize his tall, skinny figure if you manage to catch any of the following acts: Jazz Band, Football Band, Show Choir (as the drummer and backup choreographer), Senior Band (he is notorious for slapping the wooden sticks together during "Sleigh Ride"), Chamber "Honors" Orchestra, and now, the Wolftones (he sings bass, and can hit a low C). He has recently performed at the Copley Plaza, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Charlestown Halloween Parade.

Why is Liam so coveted for his rhythm? One word: versatility. He can play along with any style, be it Latin jazz or bumpin' hip-hop, and does so with a smooth and interesting feel. Although he refuses to admit it, sometimes Liam's drumming releases his emotions, and any member of his audience can see the beat flow into Liam's head as his hands

spit it out.

This little drummer boy does not harness his talent within the Latin School walls. Liam plays at the Community Music Center in the Back Bay. There, he takes private lessons and drums in a jazz combo. He has drummed in other bands outside of school such as Strangled With A Halo, Upstroke Folk, and his most favorite project, Combat Death. These metal/rock/hardcore bands embody Liam's musical aspirations. When asked why he started drumming, he said, "I started playing because I thought it would be pretty cool to play faster than Dave Lombardo from Slayer." While playing his favorite music, Liam unleashes a fury on the bass drum, comparable only to a fistfight between Zeus and Stone Cold Steve Austin. His wrists become as blurry as his vision, and one can see him anticipating his next drum fill as he licks his lips. But Liam is not just a drummer! He can be found anywhere in the music wing, studying notes as well as rhythm. In fact, two years ago, Liam won a music theory singing competition at the Community Music Center, and received \$200! He is the perfect idol for people who believe that practice makes perfect.

McCabe is also the unashamed host of BLS Idol. His MC career started off at the 2003 Battle of the Bands. Many people do not know that Liam's comedy career began on a reggae track produced in the ninth grade, on which he improvised his catch phrase, "Get off my lawn!" This



manifestation of the old man within him comes out on occasion, and there is no question that any boy trespassing across his property in the future will receive some sort of verbal harassment.

At that point, however, Liam will have no trouble with kids on his lawn, because he will have barbed wire fences surrounding his property. In fact, the fame received from his future musical success will dwarf the accomplishments described in this article. Liam McCabe is one of those people that should be observed and imitated, in order to achieve fame and fortune. With such musical skills, he will be a name to look for in the future.

A & E

Boston Latin Gets Hypnotized

Continued from page 11

Students had a chance to see live hypnotism when Russ Burgess made his fourth appearance at Boston Latin School on October 29, hosted by Ms. Freeman. Burgess, a professional hypnotist and a professor of parapsychology, has been performing for 35 years. Burgess first became aware of his extraordinary abilities at age 13. He could read people's minds and accurately predict future events. Burgess began formal training in hypnotism at age 18. Although he says that training is "very, very important," Burgess explains that, like any "creative art form," hypnotism also requires natural ability.

Maggie Jack (I), who was hypnotized, found the hypnotist's directions at the time to be "weird". Amused, she

laughed softly whenever she obeyed the hypnotist. Burgess pointed her out to the audience as being in a rare state, in which she was partially conscious of how her actions must look to an outsider.

According to psychologists, those who do not believe in hypnotism cannot be hypnotized. Louis Frank (I) believes in hypnotism, yet he was among the several subjects sent back into the audience because he did not enter a hypnotic state. Louis says that he did feel sleepy and relaxed, but did not completely go "under." "I hope I can be [hypnotized], but I don't know," he says.

Nailah Freeman (III) was also sent back to the audience. Unlike Louis, Nailah doesn't believe in hypnotism. She volunteered to be a subject because "I wanted to prove it wrong," she says. After returning to the audience, Nailah experienced an inexplicable change

in mood. Usually outgoing and active, she became quiet and unresponsive. "I just wasn't me," she says. She fell asleep immediately upon returning home and returned to normal the next day.

Nailah is not sure whether the hypnotist's actions had anything to do with her experience. She still remains skeptical about hypnotism. The other subjects, she thinks, were either "acting" or consciously obeying Burgess's orders.

Maggie believes that obedience, along with relaxation, does play a part in an individual's response to hypnotism. Hypnotism is "not magic," she says, but "it's definitely a psychological process." While the hypnotist's technique is important, the subject's perception may be equally important. "If you believe that you're hypnotized, you'll do it."

Smooth Sailing For Peter Pan

BY SILVANA VIVAS, V
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin School production of *Peter Pan*, which has become very popular among many of the younger students, has now been underway for several months. During this laborious time, problems between actors and crew members would be expected. Surprisingly, that does not appear to be the case here.

Even though Ms. Crewdson, the theater teacher in charge of the play, is new to Boston Latin, she seems to be a skilled director. "Things have been very, very good," she says. "In the future, the worst thing that might happen is people messing up their lines on opening night, but so far, the only complication we've had is some people not showing up to rehearsal because then we have to make up for it after." All signs point toward an excellent production, however. Crewdson adds "I'm not worried about people being nervous because nervous energy is good. It's when you don't get nervous that I'm worried."

As for the actors themselves, there

haven't been any major arguments on the set. A good reason may be that everyone, from the actors to the technical crew, is constantly occupied. Ms. Crewdson comments, "I haven't gotten any complaints so far."

"I [am] playing a lost boy. I like the rehearsals because it's cool; everyday it's like a big party," says Cheyenne Deveney (V) whose character's name is Slightly. The actors don't have to worry about anything because everything is planned out for them. If they are concerned with something, it's bound to be minor. "I'm just afraid of the costume I'll have to wear," jokes Meghan Sutherby (V) whose role is a lost boy named Finch. Kathleen Pierre (V), who will be playing Captain Hook says, "I especially like fencing. It's not difficult, but it's hard to remember the choreography."

The only students who aren't benefiting from this play are the ones that auditioned but didn't get the part. "I tried out for Wendy, but I ended up some kind of stage manager part that I didn't take because I didn't know what it was," says one student who spoke on terms of ano-



nymity. Unfortunately, not everyone could get the part that that they wanted so they were given jobs backstage along with the other voluntary crew members.

In any case, things are going according to plan. Everybody involved has been preparing so that by the time they receive their costumes they will fit right into their characters.

A Soldier's Account of War

BY DANIELA HUYNH, I
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

List Price: \$25.00

Published: Oct. 2004 (Hardcover)
Pantheon Books

In September of 2000, Ha Jin published his National Book Award novel *Waiting*. He delved into the intricate workings of the human soul through a compassionate tale of love and personal conflict. Four years later, Ha Jin captivates the literary world again with his new fictional novel entitled *War Trash*.

War Trash is the memoir of a young Chinese war volunteer named Yu Yuan. This sincere and straightforward narrative is a powerful story filled with subtle themes and complex emotions. Captured by the Americans as a prisoner of the Korean War, Yuan recounts the story of his life as he moves from prison camp to prison camp trying to make his way back to his homeland. The orator of the harsh realities of camp life, Jin uses Yuan to make *War Trash* not only a book but an experience, describing the fear, the des-

peration, the loneliness, and the sickening violence that arise in the aftermath of war. Yuan is an educated student with plans to marry his fiancé when he is recruited as a soldier to fight in a war. With his knowledge of the English language, Yuan is forced to become a translator and spy in the American camps. He becomes the focus of many war coalitions that would benefit from having Yuan on their side. Yet, if Yuan refuses to join them, he becomes a threat and an enemy that needs to be destroyed because of his competency with English. Amidst the chaos, the brutality, and gradual dehumanization of the soldiers on both sides of the war, Jin creates a clear and deliberate war milieu, allowing readers to see deep into the depths of the human condition.

Jin writes this riveting memoir through a perfect combination of intense research and natural skill. It is story of a scholar forced to become a soldier and his long journey to a home he no longer knew. Under the fists of tyrannical fanatics and in the care of gentle nurses, Yuan must survive the harrowing adventure and live to pick up the pieces of his former life. The clinch is that while Yuan is in the



army, life beyond war grounds changes drastically and what Yuan is desperately trying to return to may end up not being the same home—the same life—he has known before the outbreak of war.

War Trash immerses readers into the scenes found within the novel through the omnipresent eyes of Yuan. The author

Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year
From
The Lucy Family

Happy Holidays
to JA TITANES

We shall win
everything.

Yo stupid B's

Happy Holidays

Escapades!!!

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
FROM
THE JOHNSON
FAMILY

Happy Holidays to
All
- Great concerts!

Allen Family

is able to bring the cultural aspects of China to life with historical references to landmarks and treaties and traditional customs of filial piety and honor that litter the pages of the novel. Yuan's devotion to his aging mother, who resides on the mainland, waiting for him, influences the many decisions he makes and consequences he faces. Yuan also serves as a historian of the Korean War narrating events, conspiracies, military procedures, and what many soldiers went through to survive the war. The author spins a very modern, yet timeless story, by weaving the cultural legacy of China and world history together. The stark beauty of Jin's language and the deeply conflicted voice of Yuan blend into a stunning tale of a single man's search for home in times of adversity.

War Trash intersects history with the present day. America was then at war and is suffering the aftermath of war now. Using Yuan's objective voice in the story, Jin touches a profound chord within his readers, making *War Trash* a personal novel that illuminates the tragedies of war as well as the hope that eventually rises from the devastation.

BLS Holiday Concert 2004



Compiled by Yucong Ma (II), Megan Pitts (I), and Jacob Sherman (III).

<p><i>Congratulations Justine Your concert was excellent!</i></p> <p><i>Love Christine</i></p>	<p>Thanks for being such a great daughter.</p> <p>Love, Mom</p>	<p>Loved being here for your concerts Merry Christmas</p> <p>Love, Grandma</p>	<p>Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all of the great helpers at Windslow Farm Sanctuary from A.C.T (Animal Care Team)</p> <p>Ms. O'Malley</p>
<p>JESSICA,</p> <p>GREAT PERFORMANCES!</p> <p>LOVE, MOM + DAD</p>	<p>"...and a partridge in a pear tree"...</p> <p>happy holidays girls!</p> <p>- GM adore y'all!</p>	<p>JUSTINE MERRY CHRISTMAS + HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p> <p>LOVE YOU, LINDA XOXO</p>	<p>JUSTINE Hope Santa is good to you</p> <p>Love Mom + Dad</p> <p>XOXO</p>
<p>Elementary school students need your help with the ISEE. Wanna tutor? See Emma, Hr. 130</p>	<p>Congratulations QINGNI LIN and YUAN JIAN LI on your acceptance to Harvard!</p> <p>Susan, Ying and Linghau Wang</p>	<p>Congratulations to all the Music Night Per- formers.</p> <p>Dan Weinstein & Evie Weinstein-Park</p>	<p>Congratulations Caitlin! You've earned 100 stars here...on to the next 100!</p> <p>Mom, Dad, Scott</p>

SPORTS

Latin Basketball Poised For Success

By SAM AKIBA, I
SPORTS EDITOR

If you go to Acton-Boxboro or Bedford for a Friday night high school basketball game, you will see a loud, packed and energetic gym. The question is, why don't Wolfpack games have the same atmosphere? Granted, the gym is not as big, so it's not going to be as loud. But that raises even more questions as to why the games aren't sold out. The boys' Varsity basketball team is a top Dual County League contender and just as good as, if not better than Acton and Bedford. The season started on Tuesday, December 14 at home against Bedford. There were a decent number of loyal Latin fans at the game, but not as many as there should have been. Unfortunately, the Pack lost 66-65 after clawing back from a 13-point halftime deficit. Afterwards, players admitted that they hadn't started the game with enough intensity and were not able to respond to Bedford's tenacious press. The team settled down and looked much more prepared and concentrated in the second half. Unfortunately, in the waning seconds of the game Latin had several bad bounces and was unable to capitalize on Bedford's turnovers.

The one-point loss is devastating for a team that has such potential. Yet



BY MICHELLE WE, (V)

there are bright spots. Highlights included the consistent and clutch shooting of guard Pat Poulin (II), who finished with a stellar 21 points. After the game some of the players vented a little. Starting forward Marc Tangvik (I) said, "Obviously we're going to be angry and work hard, we're not gonna let something like this happen again, we got slapped in the face and we won't take that [expletive] again!" Guard Peter Lyons (I) was able to put the loss in perspective, saying, "I think it was a wake-up call for us. We came in knowing that we were favored to be one of the top teams and we over-

looked a solid team like Bedford. It will only help us in the long run. We'll surely be more intense, practice harder, and we now know what we need to do in order to reach our team goal." In terms of the team goal, the players expect big things from this squad. Both Charles Maneikis (I) and Nick Michel (I) predict about 17 or 18 wins this season. The bulk of this team has been playing together since freshman year. They know what they have to do to reach their potential. They know each other's capabilities, and they are a very cohesive unit.

Off the court there is plenty of

camaraderie. There is great chemistry in the team, or "W-Unit". Team Co-Captain Michel commented, "Once we get our full team back, we will be revitalized, and expect real big things. Our key is to play intense all 32 minutes, focusing on defense and teamwork. I also doubt there's a tighter team than us anywhere in the state." Good team relations are some of the most underrated components of building a successful basketball team. One that lacks companionship will struggle in all other aspects of the game.

This year's boys' Varsity basketball team is a very gregarious group. There is no question that with the chemistry, talent, and discipline the "W-Unit" displays, they can bounce back from a disappointing opener. The team will not have all its players available until the fourth game of the season when Sean Martin (I) and Mike Mitchell (I) can rejoin the team. Both players are key contributors and their presence was missed in the first game. The dates to mark on your calendars are December 23 against Catholic Memorial, and January 7 against Acton-Boxboro. These promise to be very intense matchups. This is a good (and rare) chance to see a boys' Wolfpack team make a dent into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association tournament, so don't miss out.

Set to Splash

By JIM LI, II
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again. Another season of winter sports filled with fierce competition, exciting moments, and most importantly, indomitable team spirit has begun. Although the main focus of the winter will be on the hockey team, who is looking to improve on their second-place finish last season in the Dual County League, the Boston Latin School swimming team is eager to make a splash of its own.

Over the last couple of years, the boys' swimming team has transformed itself from being an inexperienced team to a dangerous competitor. Two years ago, the team finished the season winning only two of the 12 meets. The lack

of success was due mainly to the relatively small number of swimmers on the team. In that season, only 12 members represented the school. As a result, each swimmer was forced to compete in three and sometimes four events, which put the team at a huge disadvantage.

Last year, however, the team received the boost that it needed when the roster doubled to 25 members. With a larger and more experienced group, improvement was within reach. Led by captains Jeff Hull (I), Joe Kane (I), and Stewart Wing (I), the team swam their way to a respectable 5-7 record, proving to be a legitimate competitor in the DCL. Seniors Preston Bayes and Jeff Bausemer each contributed top times in their respective events. But more importantly, the team showed that it

has great potential to lead this season to great success with the encouraging performances by its younger swimmers. David Yazbeck (V), for example, has established himself as one of the team's elite in only his first year. Currently, he represents Latin's best chance of winning the room breaststroke. With the potential which he possesses, the Latin School swim team is looking to have more than just an average season this year.

But beyond the talents of the individual swimmers is a sense of dedication and determination which drives this year's team. Coach Peterson, since taking over after their disappointing 2-10 season, has always emphasized dedication in his coaching philosophies. Normally a humorous and a very approachable guy, Coach Peterson gets

down to business when he has to: he does not hesitate to jump into the water to demonstrate drills; he talks to each individual swimmer and shows him ways to improve. His motivation in turn spills over to the team. The veterans, especially the seniors, have dedicated themselves to improving their times while trying to influence the younger swimmers to adopt the same work ethics. Though practices have been long and physically demanding, the team manages to uphold its positive attitude, believing that their hard work will translate into a rewarding season.

This year's swimming team is equipped with experienced veterans and promising rookies. In their indomitable team spirit, Boston Latin is ready to hit the water and make a great big splash.

NBA Players and Fans Brawl in Detroit

By BO SHANG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With less than one minute remaining in the Pistons-Pacers game on November 9, Ron Artest fouled Ben Wallace on a drive to the basket. Wallace responded with a hard two-handed shove. This sparked one of the most devastating melées in professional sports history.

Ron Artest has been known to have an uncontrollable temper. Throughout his career, he has been suspended many times: this year he received a two-game suspension for asking for time off to work on his rap album. After the initial confrontation with Wallace, Artest surprised many by calmly retreating to the scorer's table. But then Artest was hit by a cup full of beer thrown by an angry Pistons fan. Artest stormed into the stands, throwing punches as he climbed over the seats, not even knowing who threw the beer. Teammate Steven Jackson soon followed. The brawl was eventually broken up by security of the Palace of Auburn Hills, where

the game was being played.

And just when things were starting to calm down, a drunken fan leapt onto the court, raising his fists to Artest. Artest responded by knocking him to the floor. When his back was turned, the assaulted fan got back up and charged at the athlete. Pacers teammate Jermaine O'Neal stepped between them and delivered a knockout punch. Soon afterwards, police broke up this third fight and escorted the Pacers into their locker room. The game was called with the Pacers well in front, winning 97-82.

Two days after this ugly incident, NBA commissioner David Stern issued the longest suspension in league history. Artest was suspended for the rest of the season, Jackson for 30 games, O'Neal for 25 games, and Wallace for five games, all without pay. Furthermore, each player involved in the incident along with five fans were charged with one count of as-



COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

sault and battery, a misdemeanor that carries up to three months in jail and \$500 in fines. John Green, the fan who initially threw the beer at Artest, was singled out

and charged with two counts of assault and battery. Authorities say additional fans may be charged as well. Stern released this statement: "The penalties issued today deal only with one aspect of this incident—that of player misconduct. The actions of the players involved wildly exceeded the professionalism and self-control that should fairly be expected from NBA players. We must affirm that the NBA will strive to exemplify the best that can be offered by professional sports, and not allow our sport to be debased by what seem to be declining expectations for behavior of fans and athletes alike."

This incident has seriously weakened both teams. Indiana dropped from first to sixth in the Eastern Conference and Detroit dropped below the .500 mark for the first time this season.

SPORTS

MLB Hot Stove Report

By PAUL POKASKI, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On April 11, 2005, the Boston Red Sox will raise their first World Series pennant in 86 years. Championship rings will be passed out to the players, but some may have to come through the mail. The Red Sox have 15 free agents this off-season, and as of the arbitration deadline, only one has re-signed a two year agreement with the team: backup catcher Doug Mirabelli. And it is now official, the Sox have just signed prized free agent shortstop Edgar Renteria to a four year \$40 million deal. Renteria is only 29 years old, and is thought of as one of the premier shortstops in the national league now, he will be a solid addition to the team as a sure handed defensive player and a solid leadoff hitter. They also signed relief pitcher Matt Mantei. Mantei missed most of last season with an injury, but when he was healthy he was dreadful, posting an ERA of 11.81. Mantei has, however, the most saves in Arizona's brief franchise history and is a small risk at a relatively low salary. But there is a longer list of players that will not be in Fenway Park for opening day this spring. The team declined to offer arbitration to six players: relievers Terry Adams, Curtis Leskanic, Ramiro Mendoza, Scott Williamson, infielder Ricky Gutierrez, and designated hitter Ellis Burks, who is retiring. This means that the team cannot sign these players until May 1, virtually ensuring that they will be playing somewhere else next year. Also departing is Gabe Kapler, who inked a contract with the Yomiuri Giants to play in Japan.

At the outset of the off-season was to sign three-time Cy Young award winner Pedro Martinez. The New York



Mets have made an offer, and Pedro was lured away by Omar Minaya the general manager of the New York Mets. Pedro was given \$54 million over the next five years. It appeared likely the Red Sox would resign Pedro, but when Minaya guaranteed that fourth year, something Theo Epstein refused to do, Pedro took the money and ran. The Sox now are looking at other free agents to fill in the large hole Pedro has left. The team showed interest in Florida Marlins' starting pitcher Carl Pavano, who was actually traded by the Sox for Pedro, but Pavano signed with the New York Yankees. They also signed ex-Yankee David Wells to a two year contract worth eight to \$16 million. The 41-year-old southpaw is 10-3 in postseason play. Since the Red Sox seem to be aggressively pursuing starting pitchers, it is presumed that Derek Lowe has played his last game in a Red Sox uniform, despite his performance in the clinching game of the World Series. Other pitchers that the Red Sox are pursuing are the Cub's Matt Clement, Marlins A.J. Burnett and possibly the A's Tim Hudson.



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The Red Sox are also allegedly shopping World Series M.V.P. Manny Ramirez. Theo Epstein has said that no one is untouchable, and unloading Manny's huge salary would be nice. A blockbuster trade involving Manny Ramirez is, however, pretty unlikely.

The Red Sox are also in negotiations to re-sign catcher Jason Varitek, and they will probably take their time and work on a deal that they feel is appropriate because no other teams have showed serious interest in Tek.

Baseball off-season is a very busy time, and a lot of money is thrown around. As a big market team the Red Sox are usually in the thick of all the rumblings and grumblings. So do not get to caught up on weak rumors and assumptions. Sox management has proven it will get the job done. They have a smart approach, they won't over pay and they carefully calculate situations before they make offers. When the world champions once again take the field at Fenway Park on April 11 2005, expect to see some new faces, but whatever the end result is, remember: in Theo we trust.

Happy Holidays to all
My Friends
- Sarah

(And this is not because
I'm too lazy to write out
Christmas cards)

To all my good friends:
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**
~ Stephanie

(And James BS, IT'S ALL YOUR
FAULT!!)

MERRY X'MAS TO:

- Flora - Thu
- Sandra - Jenn
- Yi - Lisa
- Justin - Lina
- Trish - Margaret
- Winnie - Hoi
- Mike & Thersa & everyone else I
forgot to mention coz I have 2 mins
to write this! I *heart* yu all! Happy
Holidays!

Merry X'mas to...Mai, Dum, Winnie,
Amy's, My-Tre, Kim, Helen, Jenney,
Winette, Fiora, Trang, Khuyen, Deb-
bie, Margaret, Phuong, Bobby, Jus-
tin, Jesse, Mike Lee, Hoi, Deegan,
Chiu, Chan, Cheung, etc. and the
V-ball Team.

- Sincerely, Christine Choi

Mistress Mary,
quite contrary

Happy Holidays, luv *heart*

(p.s. I'll be seeing you under the
tree)

PIRATE

Love

To the Minions
I *heart* U! {&The
Pirate Wench!}

Merry Christmas!
To: All sixies, Christina
D., Homeroom 231,
lunch crew
I love Douglas Santos
-Peace

Buon Natale 018!
Feliz Navidad
(Mr. Wetherby's
homeroom Rocz!)

SCHEDULES

BOYS BASKETBALL

(Varsity and JV)

Tuesday 12/14 Bedford 4/ 5:30
Friday 12/17 @ Westford Academy 6/ 7:30
Tuesday 12/21 Newton South 4/ 5:30
Thursday 12/23 @ Catholic Memorial 4/ 5:30
Wednesday 12/29 Chelsea Tournament
Brookline 1:30
Thursday 12/30 TBA
Tuesday 1/4 Concord Carlisle 4/ 5:30
Friday 1/7 Acton Boxboro 6/ 7:30
Tuesday 1/11 @ Lincoln Sudbury 4/ 5:30
Wednesday 1/12 Xaverian 4/ 5:30
Friday 1/14 Weston 6/ 7:30
Tuesday 1/18 @ Wayland 4/ 5:30
Friday 1/21 @ Bedford 6/ 7:30
Tuesday 1/25 Westford Academy 4/ 5:30
Friday 1/28 @ Newton South 6/ 7:30
Tuesday 2/1 @ Boston English 3:45-5:15
Friday 2/4 @ Concord Carlisle 6/ 7:30
Tuesday 2/8 @ Acton-Boxboro 4/ 5:30
Friday 2/11 Lincoln Sudbury 6/ 7:30
Tuesday 2/15 @ Weston 4/ 5:30
Friday 2/18 Wayland 6/ 7:30
Wednesday 2/23 North Quincy 6/ 7:30

BOYS HOCKEY

Saturday 12/18 Bedford 11:45
Wednesday 12/22 @ Haverhill/O'Brien rink
7:00
Tues/Wed 12/28-29 Saugus Tournament
TBA
Friday 12/31 @ Walpole 1:30
Monday 1/3 Westford Academy 3:00
Saturday 1/8 Tewksbury 12:00
Wednesday 1/12 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00
Saturday 1/15 Andover 12:00
Wednesday 1/19 @ Methuen 6:00
Friday 1/21 Lincoln Sudbury 3:00
Monday 1/24 Newton South 3:00

Saturday 1/29 Haverhill 12:00
Wednesday 2/02 @ Wayland/NESC 6:00
Saturday 2/05 @ Tewksbury/Janas 6:00
Wednesday 2/09 @ Andover 6:00
Saturday 2/12 Methuen 12:00
Wednesday 2/16 @ Acton-Boxboro/Nasho-
ba 7:30
Saturday 2/19 @ Lincoln Sudbury/NESC
6:30
Wednesday 2/23 marian 11:30

GIRLS HOCKEY

Wednesday 12/15 Arlington @ N.U. 4:00
Saturday 12/18 @ Acton-Boxboro 7:30
Wednesday 12/22 @ Lincoln Sudbury 3:20
Monday 12/27 @ Fontbonne / Quincy 4:00
Monday 1/3 Latin Academy @ S.B. 3:30
Thursday 1/6 Billerica @ S.B. 3:30
Saturday 1/8 Everett @ N.U. 3:45
Thursday 1/13 Chelmsford S.B. M.D.C 3:30
Monday 1/17 Andover @ N.U. 2:00
Thursday 1/20 Acton-Boxboro @ S.B. 3:30
Saturday 1/22 Lincoln Sudbury @ N.U.
12:15
Thursday 1/27 @ Westford Academy @ G.S.
7:00
Saturday 1/29 @ Arlington @ S.S.R. 4:30
Wednesday 2/2 @ Everett @ A.V.R. 8:00
Saturday 2/5 Masconomet @ N.U. 12:15
Saturday 2/12 @ Andover @ Philips 6:00
Thursday 2/17 Fontbonne @ S.B. 3:30
Saturday 2/19 Westford Academy @ N.U.
12:15
Tuesday 2/22 Woburn @ N.U. 10:15
Thursday 2/24 @ Barnstable @ Ilyannis
11:45

INDOOR TRACK

All Meets Held at Reggie Lewis Track and
Athletic Center

Friday 12/17 Newton South/ Acton-Box-
boro 4:30
Saturday 12/18 Winter Festival 9:30
Monday 1/3 Wayland/Westford 5:00
Wednesday 1/5 Snowden 2:45
Sunday 1/9 Auerbach Frosh 9:30
Monday 1/10 Charlestown 2:45
Friday 1/14 Lincoln-Sudbury/Bishop Fen-
wick 5:00
Sunday 1/23 State Coaches Relays: Class
A 9:30
Monday 1/24 Hyde Park 2:45
Thursday 1/27 Weston/Bedford/Notre
Dame 4:30
Sunday 1/30 McIntyre Relays 10:00
Monday 1/31 Dorchester 2:45
Sunday 2/6 Coaches Invitational 9:30
Saturday 2/12 DCL Championship Meet
12:00
Saturday 2/19 MIAA Division I Champi-
onships TBA
Friday 2/25 MIAA Auerbach All State
Meet TBA
3/05 New England Championship TBA

WRESTLING

Thursday 12/9 @ Acton-Boxboro 7:00
Saturday 12/18 @ Stoughton 9:00
Thursday 12/30 @ Newton South 10:00
Saturday 1/8 @ North Quincy 9:00
Wednesday 1/12 Lincoln Sudbury 6:00
Saturday 1/15 @ Canton 8:00
Wednesday 1/19 Holliston 6:00
Saturday 1/22 @ Newton South 10:00
Wednesday 1/26 @ Concord Carlisle 6:30
Saturday 1/29 @ Somerset 9:00
Wednesday 2/2 @ Wayland 6:00
Saturday 2/5 @ Wayland 8:00

Spotlight Jeff Hull



COURTESY OF CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS

BY JILL EPSTEIN, I & DAN SMITH, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jeff Hull is not an ordinary student. In fact, he hasn't been an ordinary student since his first year at Boston Latin School. After having played soccer for eight years, he found his real passion in diving when he was 13 and joined the Charles River Diving Team. Persistence and determination have been the fuel for Jeff's success over the years. During the winter he travels to the Murphy School in Dorchester as one of the captains of the Boston Latin Swimming and Diving Team. After perfecting his full twisting-one-and-a-half dive, he stuffs his face and jumps in the car, heading to the pool at Harvard University where he dives for another three hours with his club team.

I'm sure many of you think that jumping off a board into water isn't that tough to do; some may even argue that it isn't a real sport. But as Jeff says, "Go find a diving board, try to flip 3.5 times and enter the water without any splash. Then come find me." Unlike many other high school athletes who only train for one season, Jeff trains year round. Could you dive for three hours a day, five days a week, 50 weeks a year? Probably not, that is what makes Jeff's dedication so incredible.

His hard work and determination have resulted in numerous awards and distinctions over the years. This summer he placed eighth at Regionals in Buffalo where he then proceeded to the East National Championships and ranked 38th. He is a three-time Dual County League All-Star and a two-time DCL Diving Champion. In 2003, Jeff won both the New England Champion title and the Diver of the Year award, presented by the New England Diver's Association. Next year as a freshman, he will dive at Columbia University.

Jeff's dedication is apparent in every aspect of his life. Along with his great athletic abilities he also has a musical side. Jeff is a part of our very own Latin Senior Band; you can hear his solo in the upcoming Christmas concert.

Along with his skills Jeff is also one of the nicest people I know. The quality I find to be most amazing about Jeff is that no matter how busy he is, he always manages to make time for his friends and his community. This past summer Jeff went to Honduras along with members of his congregation and built a church for the surrounding community. One of Jeff's good friends, Liz Good (I), said, "Originally I only knew Jeff as a funny kid and a great friend but when I finally had a chance to see him dive I realized that he was just as great an athlete as he was a friend." In the sixth grade Jeff once wrote in his middle school yearbook that in his life he wanted to "climb various mountains". Over the years I have watched him climb these mountains and achieve more than I could ever fathom.

SPORTS

Girls Basketball Looking Up

BY THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II &

LIZ TRAN, III

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hard work and dedication are the key components to this year's girls' basketball team. The girls are dedicated to their sport, try 110 percent everyday, and who knows, might pull off more upsets than one might expect.

The team has had a sub-par record over the past couple of years, although they come prepared to every game. Last year, they featured star seniors such as Kristen Stone, who scored over 20

Gilmore (I) are two of the leaders who have replaced the former stars. As adequate replacements, they lead a quality squad which includes the veteran Varsity players Maura Donnelly (II) and Cassandra Kull (II). Donnelly is excellent at shooting treys and Kull is an overpowering force under the basket.

With these veteran players already in the mix, new and old dazzling players are filling the gaps on the team and improving its outlook. The team consists mainly of juniors, with a few seniors and one sophomore. Many of the former JV will make a sizable difference in the

court. They are extremely friendly, both individually and with each other. They can be seen before and after practices chatting and working on court and off to improve the overall quality of the team. The importance of team chemistry cannot be overlooked, greatly affecting team play and the outcomes of games. Though they are a young squad, their teamwork should earn them a competitive reputation in the Dual County League, which includes teams like Westford Academy who have dominated the league for quite some time.

Under the coaching of Mr. Bennie



BY MICHELLE YAN, (III)

points a game, Katherine Walsh and her barrage of three-pointers, and Janelle Jackson, who fought through injuries to play stellar defense. But as the new season approaches, the next generation of seniors and juniors are stepping up and filling their large shoes.

Caroline Sulllivan (I) and Melissa

level of play since last year. The girls have spectacular ball handlers in Donnelly, Gilmore and Lisa Palladino (II). On the other side of the ball, Sullivan, Felicia Waldron (I) and Kull bring the team together.

All of the girls show an immense amount of teamwork, on and off the

Myers, the girls have great leadership. Considering their talent, the possibilities for the season are unknown. Their group effort on offense and defense alike can only serve to propel them. So come out to see this exciting young team. They won't let you down in terms of their effort.

A Fighting Chance for Success

BY COURTNEY FERGUSON, I

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Yet again the Boston Latin School wrestling team is getting ready to get down and dirty on the good old purple mats. This year's team is hoping for a successful season. Everyone has been training endlessly in their aim to finish on top. With strong coaching, seniority and some new and eager faces, the wrestlers are ready to put up their best fight.

Coach Jeff Gibbons and Assistant Coach Adam Petrowicz lead the Latin School squad. Providing their support and experience, they have high hopes for this group. This year, seniors Nathan Allukian, Steve Armandt and Jay O'Brien reign as captains. The team features other veterans such as Mohammad Vandi (I), Ben Speicher (IV), and an array of underclassmen. Kat Ramey (I), the lone female wrestler, has been training rigorously to enhance her skill on the mat. This year also brought out an unprecedented number of newcomers, more than the team has had in quite some time. More interest, along with the talents of the existing members, should benefit the team in many ways.

Unfortunately, unlike the other Latin School teams, the wrestling squad doesn't get first priority on the gym for practice. While girls' and boys' basketball have their practices, the wrestlers hang listlessly around the hallways, either fin-



BY MICHELLE YAN, III

ishing some homework or chatting with friends. Their belated practices begin at 4 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m., which is much later than other sports. The wrestlers start with extensive stretching and occasional laps to warm up. The weight room is jam-packed with these athletes constantly toning their muscles. The main concentration, of course, is sparring. This allows them to simulate a real match and to practice techniques useful for knocking opponents off their feet and pinning them to the floor. Also, this provides an opportunity for the wrestlers to work on reversing a pin.

So far, there is much hope for success. Virtually without effort, they

quickly demolished Acton-Boxboro. They won 48 of their matches, whereas Acton-Boxboro was only able to beat the Wolfpack in 30 matches. In a match that will set the example for ones to come, the senior captains slammed their opponents to the mat one by one.

Wrestling, though in the past unknown to the average student, is gaining recognition. The captains themselves hope to and are certain to make it to the State Tournament. They also know that, with this year's squad, they have the means to win it. Even if they fall short, much kudos should be given to these wrestlers who are dedicated, hard working and risk life and limb on the mats.

BLS Girls' Indoor Track Team

By ANDREW KLEIN, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the weather gets colder, it is the time of year for many of us to bundle up in layers of clothes and go outdoors as little as possible. But for the girls of Boston Latin School's indoor track team, it is the time of year to put on athletic pants and long-sleeve shirts to face the winter elements during everyday practice after school. With a young team showing lots of potential and with many seasoned veterans, the girls of indoor track hope to someday build up a team like the one they had when they were class-A champions. With over 40 new runners trying out for a spot on the team and with less than 15 runners lost to graduation, this year's team looks to be a competitive one even though, according to Coach McCollum, the team is still in a rebuilding process. "It's going to be tough, but there are many talented veterans and new runners to help anchor this year's team. I'm always excited to see the team give a 100 percent effort even if they don't win." With the combination of Coach McCollum, who has been coaching track for nearly 30 years and almost 15 years at Latin School, Coach Pritchard, the head track coach, and the addition of Coach Taylor, the track team's sprinting coach, Boston Latin's indoor track team has a strong and knowledgeable coaching staff.

In the first week of training, the indoor track team participates in different drills keyed to building strength and endurance. During one of the exercises intended to strengthen abdominal muscles, Coach Taylor gives some encouraging and motivating words to all the runners who are now midway through a set of crunches. "Keep going, you're almost done," announces Coach Taylor. "This year we don't want you to give up. When



BY MICHELLE YAN, III

you're in a race and you have a chance to pass your opponent we want you to do it. Don't give up now, just like you wouldn't want to give up during a race." In addition to the motivation they receive from their coaches, the girls of indoor track are constantly encouraging, supporting, and motivating each other. "I love coming to practice everyday and being a part of team where you have many friends to help and support you," says veteran distance runner Shawna Sinnott (II) who has been running track for Boston Latin since seventh grade. Shawna and her upbeat younger sisters Shannon (III) and promising young runner Shailagh (V) are three of the many talented runners who intend to compete in indoor track this season.

The team consists of talented distant runners such as Lindsay Ong (II), Caroline O'Loughlin (III), Shawna Sinnott (II) and Alison Connolly (II), in addition to speedy sprinters such as

Michelle Finley (II), Jamie Fu (I), Alia Qatarneh (II), and Maggie Jack (I). "We have such a great team this year and I hope that we can become even closer," says Michelle Finley. There is certainly a positive attitude among the indoor track runners, who are all excited about the upcoming season. Stand out middle distance and distance runner Caroline O'Loughlin has been on the indoor track team since the seventh grade, and describes running as her passion, saying, "I always have fun being with the team and I love going to practice everyday. I love to run." Her attitude is similar to many of the other girls who love being a part of the team.

As the first meet draws near, look for the girls to continue to train hard and motivate each other along the way. The team will continue to work rigorously throughout the season for, as Shawna Sinnott puts it, "You get out of running what you put into it. That's why this sport is so great."

Sports Spotlight

Catherine Foley



COURTESY OF CHESTNUT HILLS LTD.

By KATIE BALACONIS, I &
ELIZABETH BALACONIS, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Some like it hot...but this girl likes it ice cold. As long as I can remember, Catherine Foley has been more comfortable in skates than in real shoes. From her "rink rat" days in South Boston to the state championships, Catherine has developed the skills that allow her to excel on and off the ice.

With her natural abilities and hard work, she has built up an impressive track record that has left its mark on girls' high school hockey. Over the past five years, she has helped the girls' hockey team at Boston Latin School win two state championships and numerous league titles. This year Catherine heads a Wolfpack team that is ranked number one in the state by the Boston Globe. She has also been named a league All-Star for the past four years and a state All-Scholastic in the *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald*. Her Assabet Valley girls' team has also won numerous national championships.

Though her talent has brought much success to whatever team she has played for, it is her leadership and drive that truly adds to the team and leaves its mark. She has taken on the responsibilities and pressures that come with being a captain since junior year. From practices to helping others with their homework, she puts in the extra time to make the season less stressful for everyone. Her fellow co-captain, Amy Kotowski (II), states that "It's been a pleasure to play with Catherine for the past five years because of not only the dedication and hard work she puts in, but the way she is able to inspire the other girls."

The same energy that she puts into hockey is also present in her other activities and academics. Most of us are hard press to get through the rigorous year at Latin. Well, Catherine delivers on the ice, and delivers strong grades on her report card. During both junior and senior year, she has taken the most challenging courses offered at Latin, including a combined six AP classes. She has a wide array of extracurricular activities: co-president of the Blue and Red Line Club, a staff member of the yearbook, volunteer in the Athletic Department, manager of the mascot, and you have probably seen her sports articles in the *Argo*.

So although many may consider the number thirteen to be unlucky, as always, Catherine has been an exception to this superstition. With her senior year and amazing high school career coming to a close, she hopes to attend Boston University and major in psychology. Catherine is an all-around exceptional person. A leader, a good and caring friend, and a hard worker. As long as she keeps up her strong work ethic and dedication that she applied at Latin, she will be far from ever skating on "thin ice".

Girls' Hockey a Top Contender

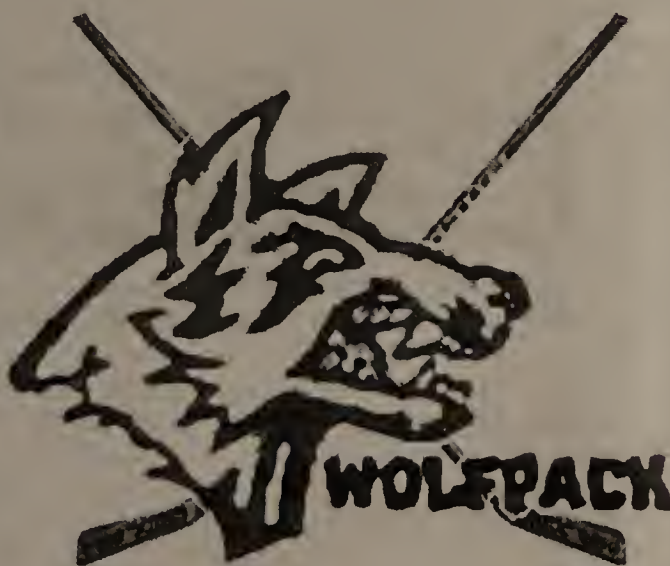
By THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

As the final moments of last year's season wound down during the State quarterfinals, the Boston Latin School girls' hockey team began looking ahead to this year. The team lost very few seniors and had already built an experienced team for the 2004-2005 season. Along with the already potent team, they also added goalie Siobhan Elvin (VI) to the roster, moving forward with high expectations and a very confident attitude.

The girls are led by captains Katie Balaconis (I), Catherine Foley (I) and Amy Kotowski (II). They have been using the preseason exhibition games and practices to get their rhythm back, and the team is in the process of gearing up for the beginning of the regular season. Although the team roster hadn't quite been finalized going into the last weekend before the season, the team's attitude was very solid. The two top offensive lines are basically intact from last year with Foley, Kotowski and Colleen Doogan (III) all continuing to skate on the ice for the purple and white. The second line, which is just as dangerous, consists of Jill Mahoney (II), Samantha Morrissey (II) and the younger Kathleen Roche (IV). Kotowski and Foley

both led the team in goals and assists last year, and the Wolfpack's offense looks to them and to others to provide the same statistics this year.

The strong point of the team lies in its defense. It consists of two strong lines with the duo of Captain Katie Balaconis and Liz Balaconis (II) providing the lead-



BY KE ZHANG, (III)

ing support. With rookie goalie Elvin, the defense is the key to the girls' success. A second line of defense is made up of Ann Marie Elvin (IV) and Madison Gilmore (IV) almost comparable to the Balaconis sisters. On a team that has few weaknesses to begin with, the strong defense should

hold them together through the good times and the bad.

Under the leadership of head coach Marty McDonough, the girls hope to reclaim their recently won Division I state championship, and after their first game of the season, were listed as number one in the state by the *Boston Globe*. In addition to great leadership, the team also has good chemistry and looks to use that to its advantage. "Since we're close in the locker room, it helps us interact on and off the ice," says Liz Balaconis. Team chemistry is the newfound formula used by the current championship Boston sports teams and appears to be working for the Wolfpack.

With a solid group and only two seniors, the team has tremendous potential for the future. Also, it has an upper hand in that much of the younger members making up the team are comfortable with each other and have been playing hockey for years. This strong hockey background has given the team a boost of confidence which filters down from the coach to the captains, through the offensive lines down to the sixie goalie. In the words of Kotowski, "We are going to be a strong team because we only lost a couple people. We have a young goalie who's a sixie, so we're relying on tough defense to carry us through."

SPORTS

It's a Wonderful Life

BY RONALD BOWER, II &
SAM AKIBA, I
STAFF WRITER & SPORTS EDITOR

New England sports fans have much to be grateful for this holiday season. We all witnessed the Patriots steamroll their opponents game after game until their 21-game winning streak was ended, and speaking about ending, so was a certain curse. Yet it was not all victory celebrations: the Boston Celtics were unable to uphold Boston's winning ways.

In years past, the Boston Celtics have been the major threat in the National Basketball Association, but this year the situation was slightly different. When Danny Ainge became Director of Basketball Operations for the Green, it was expected he was going to revamp the entire team. After coach Jim O'Brien's departure, Ainge's management decisions helped the Green capture the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with a 36-46 record. But this was all in vain, as Boston fans watched their former messiah turn his back on them. Larry Bird and the Indiana Pacers swept the Celtics, winning by at least 10 points in each contest. With a few key

trades, Ainge acquired Gary Payton as well as four draft picks in the off-season. Currently the Celtics are slightly below .500, and don't expect a huge turnaround this season either.

Boston College football was one of the more positive stories in Boston this year. After advancing all the way to number 21 in the nation, the Eagles only needed to defeat Syracuse to play in the Fiesta Bowl. But in a season where the Eagles were on the winning end of many upsets, the Eagles were trounced by the Orange, 43-17. BC's record fell to 8-3, and what would have been a major BCS Bowl game fell to the Continental Tire Bowl. Another BC team that did not do too shabbily was the men's ice hockey team. For most of the season the Eagles were ranked number one in the country and even defeated Boston University to win the Beanpot. Nevertheless, like their

football counterparts, the season slowly unraveled for them in the end. BU took its revenge by upsetting the Eagles in the first round of the Hockey East Championship Tournament. BC, however, still earned a spot in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Men's Ice Hockey Tournament. The Eagles were able to come back at full speed and even made it to the Frozen Four, which was coincidentally being held at the FleetCenter. It looked like it would be in the bag for BC since they had home-ice advantage. But in an incredible effort, Maine beat BC 2-1 in a game despite being outshot 41-18. The Eagles are currently ranked fifth in

at least this loss won't be as heartbreaking as Aaron Boone beating us. But then something amazing happened; it was as if the Splendid Splinter had taken a bat right to the groin of the Bambino. In three straight dramatic games, the Red Sox tied the series. Then, with a dominating performance in that incredible game seven they won the pennant and made history. The Boston Red Sox were the first team in Major League Baseball history to come back from a 3-0 deficit, to none other than the Evil Empire itself. The euphoria did not stop there, though. They swept the St. Louis Cardinals and ended 86 years of misery. They also set



COURTESY OF FILE IMAGE SEARCH

the NCAA.

What else can we say about the world-champion New England Patriots? They filled our hearts with joy again earlier this year, and with the addition of stellar running back Corey Dillon, I don't think there's a team out there that will stop them. Their 12-1 record is the best in team history. Bill Belichick and staff can't do anything wrong. They have already clinched the American Football Conference East Division, and are poised to make a run at a third Superbowl championship in four years.

This is the best sentence I have ever typed: the Boston Red Sox are World Series Champions. 2004 will clearly be remembered as the year of the Red Sox. I admit that I did temporarily jump off the Sox bandwagon after game two of the American League Championship Series, and after game three, I thought to myself,

the record with eight consecutive playoff wins. No more 1918, no more curse, no more heartbreak. Despite a pitcher that was not supposed to start a single game, a couple of ballplayers with wild haircuts, a lot of camaraderie, and not to mention some talent, they finally did it.

So in retrospect, 2004 wasn't too bad. I'll take two out of three championships every year. Of course, we're probably not going to be this lucky every year. 2004 was truly a special year. I will cherish the amazing seasons of the Red Sox and the Patriots for as long as I live. Perhaps someday soon the Celtics will once again hang a championship banner (but give that one a couple years). Boston is the greatest sports town in America. This year we were richly rewarded, so this holiday season don't get too caught up with your gifts, because you already got two great ones.

A Spanish-speaking Oreo says Marshmellow Love ya haha
SPOKEN WORD LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD Contact Vinh Hua (118) Sandra Lee (118) Neysa Shum (124) Ms. Powell
Yi Liu Au Tableau!
To the herd: may your winter break have lots of snow! -love, jingles
qui, quae, quod Jingus, a, um Lisa, Lisae, fem. We love you Latin ;dork -E
Feliz Navidad! deseo que este nuevo año ses lleno de muchas felicidades, paz y union para todos ustedes.
Happy Random Holiday to all the ladies of the Lesbian Love Fest (and the men's auxiliary). Love you all!
Electra seeks a Vincent Reward offered

Chúc mừng Giáng Sinh! Năm Mới Vui Vê! Happy Holidays! > ☐	To the A.S./A Executive Committee (Bobby, Flora, Jenny, Jieyu, Julie, Kenneth, Kim, Lina, Vicky, and Virginia) Happy Holidays! Make sure you guys have some fun during vacation! We love you guys! We'll see you next year! - Jenney, Johnson, Peter, and Tracy	
Merry Christmas + Happy Hanukah to: Liz, Erin, Victoria T., Jasmyne, Mikayla, Bianca, Peter, Joey, Shailagh, Travis, Tatiana, Victoria Shum, Xenia, Hannah R, Hannah M., Megan, Aoife, Robin, Alana, Ariel, Danny, Amelia, Jessica E., Barbara, Anna, Laura, Katie, Nicole, Conrad. Chris, Beverly, Courtney, Kat, Kerry. if we forgot anybody, sorry!	happy holidays ~ hX 132	Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night sleep. Don't stress! C.L.



Quota Special:

Pages 8 and 9

☐ Mexican American, Chicano
☐ Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander
☐ Puerto Rican
☐ Caucasian

The Indian Ocean Tsunami

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BLS responds

Election Day Finally Comes To Iraq

By **MONICA MLECZKO, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Iraqi elections on January 30 were held as scheduled, despite Sunni Muslims boycotting the polls and insurgents trying to disrupt elections. Attacks increased as election day approached; on January 19 alone, over 20 Iraqis were killed by five different car bombs. Insurgents suspected to be primarily Sunnis targeted Shiites who cooperated with the United States and United Nations. Fearing that insurgents would begin planning attacks, Iraqi officials did not disclose the locations of polling centers or the names of many candidates before election day. The democratic election in Iraq, the first since Saddam Hussein took power in 1979, will seat 275 representatives on the transitional National Assembly. On January 30, Iraqis voted in cardboard booths by checking off one of 111 parties on a ballot, rather than electing specific candidates. The seats will be filled proportionally according to voting results, and the correct number of candidates, submitted by the parties beforehand, will be seated. The National Assembly is supposed to draft a permanent constitution by August and then submit it to voting by the people. If the constitution is approved, a constitutional government will be elected. If it is not, a second transitional government will be elected by 2006. The National Assembly will elect a Presidency Council, consisting of a president and two deputies. Then the Prime Minister and the Council of Minis-



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: INTERIM PRIME MINISTER AYAD ALLAWI; THE PROPOSED NEW IRAQI FLAG; A MAN CASTS HIS BALLOT; INTERIM PRESIDENT SHEIK GHAZI AL-YAWER.

ters, the strongest powers of the constitutional government, will be elected.

Iraq's population of 26 million is composed of 60 percent Shiite Muslims, 20 percent Sunni, and 20 percent Kurd. Under Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party, Sunnis held power over the government for decades, but now the Shiites will have the majority in the elections. Many Sunnis have decided to boycott the polls, citing the alleged lack of adequate security. For this reason, the leading Sunni

party, the Iraqi Islamic Party, withdrew from the race. The Association of Muslim Scholars, another Sunni religious party, refused to vote until U.S. and multinational troops are withdrawn, and also called for all Iraqis to boycott the polls.

Over 100 parties ranging from social-democratic to communist are registered and are led by dominating figures in Iraqi politics. Ayad Allawi, the Prime Minister of Iraq's interim government, heads the Islamic National Accord (a secu-

lar Shiite party largely supported by the United States and the United Nations). Combined with other parties, the Islamic National Accord forms the largely secular Iraqi List. The Islamic Daawa Party is a moderate Shiite group which cooperated with forces in Iraq, consequently losing much of their support. Its leaders decided to combine with other Shiite parties into the United Iraqi Alliance, which is expected to win the most seats in the election. Their spokesperson is Ibrahim Jaahari, one of Iraq's two vice presidents. Iraqi Interim President Sheik Ghazi Al-Yawer is the principal candidate of the Iraqis' Party, and is a Sunni Arab. The Kurds have two major parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), that form the Kurdistan Alliance. These three alliances are expected to win 80 percent of the seats on the National Assembly.

Beginning January 28, Iraq allowed voting outside the country in 14 nations, including in five cities in the United States. Those born in Iraq but now living in different countries (and even their non-citizen children) were permitted to vote as long as they proved their descent. Although the number of voters was uncertain because of the scarcity of the voting centers, larger numbers than expected did come out.

The official voting figures from Iraq itself have not yet been released, but the turnout was clearly higher than anticipated: an estimated 57 percent of

Continued on Page 2

Library Attracts the Young and the Restless

By **LINDA ZHENG, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For many students, the library is the preferred place to spend precious study periods. Signing up to be excused from a classroom study, however, is no easy feat. A limited number of students are allowed to come to the library during their study periods, and numerous complaints have surfaced. Students claim that they are unable to sign up because of the disproportionate number of Class V and Class VI students who seem to occupy most of the available spaces in the library during the school day. "It's frustrating," commented Jennifer Ly (III), "and even if you manage to sign up, all the computers are taken by the sixties anyway."

Results of an *Argo* survey showed that

the number of students from Class V and Class VI tends to be slightly greater than the combined number of upperclassmen. More than a third of the students present spend at least three studies of each six-day cycle in the library. Barbara McLean, a Library Media Specialist, observes, however, "The younger students do have more studies, so they would be more likely to be in the library than the others." They are in the library for so much time during the week, but why is it so attractive? What do they do in the library that cannot be done in a classroom study?

According to the survey, the most common activities pursued by students who go to the library for their study periods are schoolwork and talking with friends. Only two students stated that they chose to go to the library to employ its collection of reference materials. In addition, though many

reported that they make frequent use of the computers, nearly half stated that they use them for recreational purposes. When asked why the students favor spending study periods in the library rather than in a classroom, members of all classes responded, in effect, that "it's nice to just hang out in the library." However, as an anonymous disgruntled Class II member griped, "It's so unfair because I usually need to use the computers or encyclopedias in the library to finish projects, but the sign up sheet is always full with people who just want to talk and play online checkers."

Though some classes employ the library's resources to supplement other research materials, a surprising number of students reported that they had never had an assignment that required the use of, or was supplemented by, a trip to the library.

Services offered by the library staff include guidance with research projects and the occasional lessons on geography. While some classes, especially sections of Humanities and English Literature, have taken advantage of these opportunities, many have yet to do so. "We definitely want to further integrate ourselves into courses," asserted Barbara McLean. "It is an important goal for us."

Large numbers of underclassmen in the library seem to cause problems for upperclassmen hoping to use this resource, but the main issue appears to be that those who do end up in the library don't utilize it to its full potential. Media specialists and dissatisfied students alike believe that this can be solved if students are conscientious and recognize that the library is needed for work and not just for "chilling."

Global News Tidbits

>> David Dickinson, the owner and manager of Midwest Feeding Co. in Milford, Nebraska, has a big problem: 2,000 tons of burning cow manure. Despite multiple efforts to extinguish the fire at this cattle feedlot, it has burned for two months. Its cause is unknown, but one idea is that the heat from the composting manure deep in the pile ignited the rest of it. (AP)

>> A woman recently wrote a letter to Eagle County High School's current principal Mark Strakbein and confessed to cheating on a Shakespeare test by stealing the answers with the help of a friend in 1957. Strakbein plans to use the letter in the future to teach students about integrity. (AP)

>> Nathan Carlson, from Willmar, Minnesota, just wants to be someone's prom date, but eBay isn't making it easy for him—they keep canceling his auction. He has posted it twice, with the highest bid exceeding \$260. (AP)

Celebrate Valentine's
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See Ad on Page 5 for more information!

NEWS

Same Bush, New Agenda

BY LIZ FINLAYSON, II
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday January 20, after being sworn in on his family Bible as the forty-third President of the United States, George W. Bush announced his plan for the next four years to the nation. The crowd at the Capitol consisted of over 100,000 people, including former President Bush and the rest of his family, former President Clinton and Senator John Kerry, along with members of the Cabinet. While most of the other onlookers were Bush supporters coming out to encourage him, there were several protesters who tried to undermine the event until they were removed from the crowd by security personnel.

Laced with patriotic overtones, President George W. Bush's address described his agenda for his second term in office. He was vague in his speech, referring indirectly to the war in Iraq and anti-democratic governments. When alluding to the war he stated, "Our country has accepted obligations that are difficult to fulfill, and would be dishonorable to abandon." He made a reference to Abraham Lincoln when he said, "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under the rule of a just God, cannot long retain it." After he said this a member of the crowd attempted to interrupt the speech, but was promptly removed.



While the speech touched on many subjects, the main point of Bush's message showed his intentions to "end tyranny in the world." After his speech, CNN, *USA Today* and Gallup Poll asked 624 adults for their responses to President Bush's speech and his plan for the next four years. About 60 percent of the individuals polled felt that the goal of ending tyranny is unattainable, but another 60 percent felt that Bush's goal of spreading democracy to places where it does not exist is attainable. About 43 percent said that the inaugural speech made them feel hopeful about the current atmosphere of the country and about the foreign and domestic situations over the next four years.

After the speech, President Bush

and his family travelled past picketing protesters from the Capitol to the White House in a heavily guarded limousine. Later that evening the Bush family attended nine inaugural balls celebrating the President's second term in office. But the most sought-after event was held the night before the inauguration: the Black Tie and Boots Ball. Attendees were asked to wear formal attire, cowboy boots and cowboy hats to reflect the Texas president.

President Bush's intentions to spread democracy across the world, end tyranny and reunite the divided nation seem like an overly packed agenda. The polls show, however, that most of the nation is prepared to stand behind the president during his second term.

Continued from Page 1

the registered voters did vote (about 8 out of 14.2 million). A low turnout was witnessed in the Sunni dominated areas, but not as low as previously thought. The prospect of three-fifths of the population being underrepresented continues to put pressure on the government to devise a strategy to legitimize the elections. To appease the Sunnis, a suggestion that seats on the National Assembly be set aside for leading Sunni leaders has been made. More ideas (to have three presidents and a new cabinet) have also been introduced. Ayad Allawi stresses that the government should do whatever needed to allow all voices of Iraq to be heard. The Sunni Clerical Association of Muslim Scholars claims that the election results are in fact illegitimate because a large number of Sunnis never voted, and thus all of Iraq will not be represented. Nevertheless, the final results are expected to be released February 9.

The elections are generally being praised as a democratic achievement. Even countries such as China, which were initially reluctant to accept the votes have acknowledged their success and have officially supported the elections. Britain and Germany commend the high turnout. But Russia as a whole, despite the support of President Vladimir Putin, is skeptical of

the results. Many civilians suggest that ballots were faked, and they stress the Sunni dissatisfaction.

Problems, both internal and external, will continue to arise for Iraq. There is an increasing demand for an eventual withdrawal of multinational troops, but President Bush refuses to give a timetable. Then, drafters of the constitution for the newly unoccupied country will need to write a document with a balance of secular and Islamic laws that citizens will accept.

Iraq will have to face the disunity felt by many Iraqis (not just Sunnis). Recently, Kurdish spokesmen revealed that, in an unofficial ballot, 95 percent of Kurds polled said that they desire independence from Iraq. Insurgency remains a widespread issue that is likely to hamper the development of Iraq's fledgling democracy. These issues collectively form a barrier of momentous proportions. Only time will show whether Iraq has truly prevailed in its effort to create a strong new democracy.

Students Raise \$25,000 in 9-day Tsunami Relief Fundraiser



Over a nine-day period, Latin School students raised \$25,000 to assist victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Above, Student Council leaders and Assistant Head Master Malcolm Flynn present the funds to UNICEF. Read about the tsunami on page 3.



Boston Latin School
Argo

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BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
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The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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Wave of Change

BY KATIE HARRISON, III
STAFF WRITER

The December 26 tsunami has already claimed some 225,000 lives, making it the largest natural disaster since 1976. More than a month later, the affected areas continue to deal with the aftermath of this disaster. Though economists say damage to the global economic picture will be limited, many survivors who were formerly fishermen have lost their livelihoods to the sea. Salt water has mixed with fresh water aquifers, and the ocean water has ensured that coastal agricultural fields and fruit groves will be barren for years to come. Existing conflicts have been intensified, not ameliorated.

Indonesia

In addition to the tremendous loss of life—the highest of any country—this nation of 6,000 inhabited islands is still facing grave problems. Foreign aid has poured in, but its distribution is a major concern, and the government has demanded the withdrawal of all foreign troops by the end of March.

In Aceh province on the northeast tip of Sumatra the struggle between the government and a group of separatist rebels has escalated since 2003. Martial



THE INDONESIAN ISLAND OF SUMATRA BEFORE AND AFTER THE TSUNAMI.

law was imposed upon the province for a year, although the status has since been downgraded to a declared state of “civil emergency.” Aceh is still largely ruled by the military, and there are reports from the Human Rights Watch that aid agencies have been required to turn provisions over to the armed forces. There are also suspicions that the military is withholding aid from areas seen as sympathetic to rebel groups. Apparently taking advantage of the chaotic situation, numerous human rights abuses continue in the wake of the devastating tsunami.

Sri Lanka

After tens of thousands of deaths in Sri Lanka during a lengthy civil war, old conflicts are still raging. The two major ethnic groups of the island, the Sinhalese and the Tamils, have a bloody history, which continues today. The Tamil Tigers, or LTTE, are still engaging in a battle for independence, even as the Sinhalese work to politically restrict the Tamils. The LTTE is known for recruiting young children to its ranks, and according to Human Rights Watch, has been taking tsunami orphans from refugee camps. There are also fears that child trafficking, especially attempts to adopt orphans for forced labor and the sex trade, will increase. For the moment, international adoption of children from the area has been halted.

Early Warning Systems

In hopes of preventing future disasters in southeast Asia, scientists and politicians are discussing the possibility of creating a system which would warn of an oncoming tsunami. According to one scientist, a system similar to the one in the Pacific Ocean could be built in the Indian Ocean for as little as \$20 million, but high-speed communication to coastal towns would need to be improved before such a system would be effective. “There’s no point in spending all the money on a fancy monitoring and a fancy analysis system unless we can make certain that the infrastructure for the broadcast system is there,” said Australian scientist Phil McFadden.

Arafat Aftermath

BY MARY HONG, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

Yasser Arafat’s death has provided an opportunity for a fresh start on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which had previously been a bloody stalemate. Thus far, President Mahmoud Abbas has taken advantage of his new position to carefully reattempt to resolve the intimidating problems that have been plaguing the region for decades. Abbas, who was elected in early January on a moderate platform promoting nonviolence, has shown pragmatism in dealing not only with the Israeli state but Palestinian militant groups as well. In an interview aired on Palestinian television, Arafat’s successor reported progress in obtaining militant cooperation to end attacks on Israel and to act more in accordance with the policies of the Palestinian Authority.

The most recent success is the formation of a tentative cease-fire agreement with Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist group responsible for attacks on Karni Crossing around mid-January. This is a group the U.S. State Department categorizes as a terrorist organization, and the negotiations with them and others, to which Palestinians have given the term “national dialogue,” are necessary for further compromise and to renew trust in Palestine. In another attempt to control unauthorized militant activity, Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei has issued an order banning the possession of unlicensed weapons. For his part, Abbas has promised Palestinian militants to remake the Palestinian Liberation Organization into a “supreme diplomatic authority” that will formalize relations with Israel. Despite Arafat’s rejection of a union of groups promoting Palestinian interests with the PLO when he was in power, Mahmoud Abbas is also pushing for the ambitious creation of a more comprehensive and inclusive “umbrella” order that would unite all existing Palestinian organizations.

In addition to making progress in his own country and trying to gain order so as not to upset the delicate reopening of peace talks, Abbas has remained firm in his promotion of Palestinian interests. On numerous occasions he has empha-

sized the necessity for dual cooperation and for both Palestine and Israel to bear equal responsibility to fully commit to the process. Abbas has demanded that Israel “halt its assaults on Palestinian people, cities and villages, stop chasing fugitives, return deportees to their homes and most importantly, [deal] with the issue of [releasing] prisoners.”

One key demand to which Israel complied was made by militants in return for a cease-fire agreement. It is the termination of an Israeli government-sponsored mission to assassinate senior leaders of Palestinian militant organizations. Israel must also agree to avoid interfering on the border in case of military agitation on the Palestinian side, as long as the Palestinian Authority has the situation under control. In order to make sure Palestine can respond to such a scenario, Abbas has called for the deployment of Palestinian security into South Gaza, while troops stationed in North Gaza stand alert and ready to prevent attacks on Israel. But worries remain that, in the event of crises, dense gatherings on the border of both sides would cause total chaos. There is also a possibility that Israeli soldiers will mistake Palestinian security for militants, sparking a new wave of violence and hatred.

The tentative reach-out for peace is off to a promising start. Both sides have been consciously attempting to curb detrimental developments on the part of their own people. Both sides have tried to keep their promises. Yet the problem remains unsolved. The current rounds of meetings between Israeli leader Ariel Sharon and Mamoud Abbas, supplemented by meetings amongst key cabinet members, are projected to extend for at least another month. The U.S. will be sending Assistant Secretary of State William Burns to Brussels to meet with representatives from the United Nations, the European Union and Russia. As an integral part of this “Mideast Quartet,” the U.S. hopes to help formulate ways to smooth the peace process and discuss plans to improve Palestinian security. As proven in past experiences, however, the fate of this unstable region can only be determined by the actions of the Palestinians and Israelis themselves.

Communication, Interrupted

Bridging the Parent-School Information Gap

BY JIEYU JIANG, III
STAFF WRITER

Every year, some 500 new students enter the Boston Latin School community. Along with them come 1,000 parents who know nothing about the environment at Boston Latin. To help these adults familiarize themselves with the school, there are numerous organizations designed to improve communication between the two. One of the most prominent of these is the School Parent Council, run entirely by parents. Recently, however, it has become more difficult for parents to communicate with the school when necessary. For example, at one SPC meeting, a mother concerned about her child’s classwork was worried by a faculty member’s lack of response to her numerous phone calls and e-mails.

To resolve these ongoing issues, the SPC has recently designated a subcommittee to discuss and hopefully improve the communication (or lack thereof) between parents and the school. The subcommittee first examined current ways parents communicate with the

school, finding the Internet to be the most common means. Two methods of web communication are used. A common listserv established years ago is still maintained to foster interaction among those directly connected to the school (e.g. parents, administrators, faculty, students and alumni). In addition, there is an e-mail notification listserv maintained by the school itself, which sends announcements and information regarding upcoming events. The former contains about 468 members, a very small number compared to the number of Latin School parents, or indeed the community at large. The second listserv is more official and is maintained by the Boston Public Schools, represented by Ms. Cathy Meany, Director of Technology at Boston Latin School. Currently, 248 parents subscribe to it.

The main objective of this Communications Subcommittee is to increase the number of parents on these two lists in order for the school to be able to send out monthly calendars to inform all parents quickly and effectively. The SPC used to send out paper calendars to

parents but due to the eternal paper shortage and the departure of several dedicated parents, the service was eliminated. Dr. Peter Cohee, Director of the Classics Department, says that “there is much more information now than ten years ago and many students and parents don’t have the resources available for them to communicate with the school on a timely basis.” Thus, the SPC intends to find out soon which parents cannot receive information via the Internet and then provide them with announcements by mail.

Many parents were displeased with the results of the open house on January 20. Since it was arranged just like the first one, where the teacher speaks to the parents as a group rather than individually, some felt it was unnecessary. One parent asked, “Why not give parents the opportunity to speak with their child’s teachers for, let’s say, five minutes?” Another suggested the resurrection of a former arrangement, in which parents line up to speak to each teacher privately. If that does happen, however, the number of parents who come to the open houses will increase and teachers will not have

sufficient time to speak with them all. Fewer parents have been coming to the open houses (especially for upperclassmen) over the years. Parents just do not feel that attending is worthwhile. To that end, the SPC committee has been trying to find ways to solve this problem.

Over the course of the year, the SPC has distributed several handouts at meetings to encourage parents to sign up on the two electronic listservs. To help the parents who are having trouble communicating with specific teachers, the SPC has come up with several strategies. One of them is to contact the program director, who will then assist the parent in reaching the individual teacher. The SPC has also invited program directors such as Dr. Cohee and Ms. Susan Moran to speak at the monthly meetings held at the school. Dorothy Renaghan, a co-chair of SPC, says that “the means for communication [at BLS] must continuously be reviewed, modified for the times, and tweaked.” Perhaps this optimistic attitude will help to improve the communication between parents, staff and other members of the Boston Latin community.

A & E

Remembering Rwanda

Feature Film Draws Audience into Horrors of '94 Genocide

PAUL RUSEABAGINA (DON CHEADLE) DEFENDS BOTH FAMILY AND STRANGERS IN *HOTEL RWANDA*, NOMINATED FOR THREE ACADEMY AWARDS.BY OLIVIA PAQUETTE, II
STAFF WRITER

A film like *Hotel Rwanda* is not easy to categorize. It is neither a documentary nor a work of fiction. It's a war movie that depicts the violence of a civil conflict. In a more meaningful sense, it is an epic drama recounting one man's heroic actions, which made a difference to so many.

What distinguishes *Hotel Rwanda* from other movies is the way in which it combines these genres. The story is based upon the experiences of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who, during the genocide in 1994, sheltered more than 1,200 Tutsis from the violence of the Hutu majority. While it succeeds in telling an inspiring story of sacrifice and courage in the face of unspeakable horrors, *Hotel Rwanda* is also an important film because of its subject matter. It aims to reveal to an American audience the facts about a genocide which happened only 11 years ago, but has already been forgotten by the world. As director Terry George says,

it was "a story that had to be told."

In order to tell that story truthfully, George and co-writer Keir Pearson did extensive research. They visited sites of the genocide in Rwanda and interviewed survivors, many of whom were sheltered in Rusesabagina's hotel.

By showing the public exactly what happened in Rwanda, the director and writer wanted to move them to action. The indifference which the rest of the world, especially the United States and Europe, showed toward the Rwandan genocide is painfully clear in the film. Don Cheadle, who stars as Paul Rusesabagina, joins George and Pearson in urging the public to learn an important lesson. In an article co-written in the *Boston Globe*, he relates the genocide in Rwanda to present-day events in Congo and Sudan, asking readers not to make the "cowardly retreat" that marked the world's reaction in response to the conflict.

Hotel Rwanda has been compared to Steven Spielberg's 1993 film *Schindler's List* about a factory owner during the

Holocaust who saved over 1,000 Jews from death in concentration camps by identifying them as necessary workers for his business. The two films share similar development in plot and central character. Like Oskar Schindler, Paul Rusesabagina changes from an uninvolved onlooker into a hero willing to compromise his personal safety to save lives. The mission of both films is also the same: to educate viewers about atrocities which must not be forgotten. Spielberg says that he made *Schindler's List* "so that history could not be denied." For this reason, he "wanted the film to be as close to reality as possible." He gave it what he calls a "documentary feel" by filming it entirely in black and white to resemble World War II footage. He also shot many scenes in the original locations.

Keir Pearson says that he considered a documentary approach in telling Paul Rusesabagina's story. He felt, however, that a feature film would reach more viewers. As *Boston Globe* critic Ty Burr puts it, the "urgency" of getting *Hotel*

Rwanda out to as many people as possible also prompted Pearson and George to cut out some of the violence of the movie for a PG-13 rating. This measure somewhat restricts the true representation of the genocide in the film. Although Pearson says that focusing on a single man's story may obscure other facts surrounding the Rwandan genocide, he hopes that his film will reach more people in order to provoke thought and action in the viewer. "After all," he says, "*Hotel Rwanda* is only a film. What's most important is what you, the audience, take away from it."

Unlike many movies shown in the United States, *Hotel Rwanda* is, indeed, a film that aims to educate as well as entertain. Ms. Judi Freeman, who teaches Facing History and Ourselves at Boston Latin School, brought a group of her students to see the film when it opened at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. According to Freeman, *Hotel Rwanda* is important because "the issue is important." The goal of any movie, she believes, should be to

Continued on Page 5

Notable Alumnus Hentoff on Civil Rights

BY ANDREW KLEIN, IV
STAFF WRITER

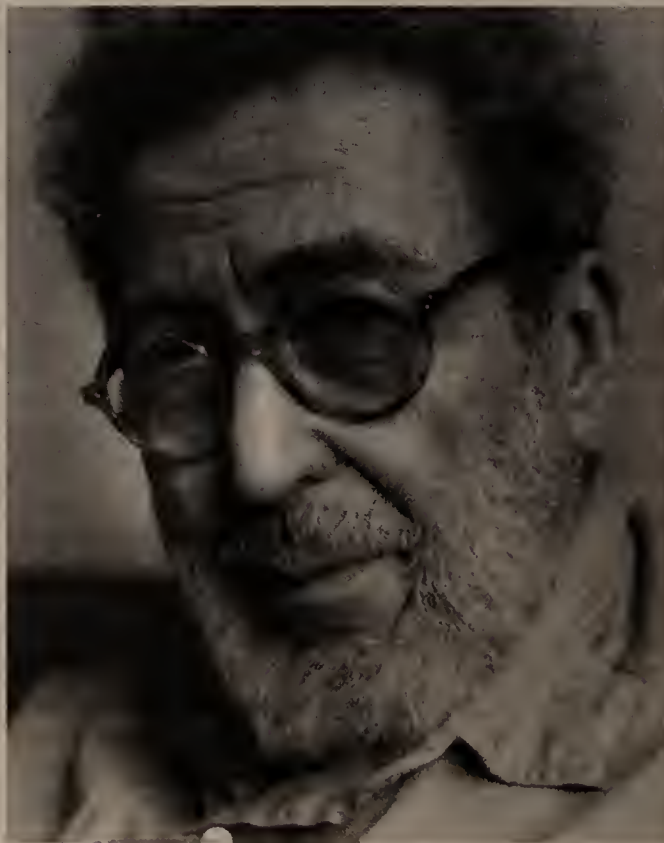
"From syndicated columnist to social historian, constitutional scholar and music critic, Nat Hentoff has played many roles in the field of journalism since the 1950s, but none more notable in the eyes of jazz fans than his roles as leading jazz historian, biographer and anecdotist," said Daniel King of *Jazz Times*. In a recent phone interview with the *Argo*, Hentoff, named "Distinguished Graduate of the Year" by the Boston Latin School Association in late November, recounted memories of his school days, and voiced his opinions on topics ranging from current politics to jazz.

Hentoff explained that he was introduced to jazz at a young age when he found himself attracted to this genre of music that was long associated with the "outsider" culture. As he began to learn more, he developed an intimate relationship not just with the music but with the culture as a whole. He described his relationship with the music that boasted such artists as Louis Armstrong and Lester Young: "Jazz keeps me going."

"I remember cutting class at Boston Latin School to attend the Savoy Café and I would have to lie about my age to get in." Hentoff often ventured

away from his classes to attend jazz clubs and bars where he would immerse himself in a completely different atmosphere from that of Avenue Louis Pasteur. He considered some of

Though Hentoff often found his experience at Boston Latin quite difficult and at times unrewarding, he accredited many of his life skills to the hard work he had to complete as



NAT HENTOFF, CLASS OF 1941

his deep conversations with fellow jazz enthusiasts and musicians much more vital than many of the classes taught by the masters at Latin School.

a student: "My experience at Boston Latin School has been greatly useful in journalism. I have learned to stick with a story even if it appears uninteresting

because I know there is a chance that something fascinating could unfold."

Hentoff often found the building on Avenue Louis Pasteur a sanctuary from the discrimination he faced growing up as a Jewish boy in Boston. Even though outside of school it was unsafe for him to associate with certain non-Jews, his two best friends at the Latin School were Greek and Irish.

Hentoff, who now has a weekly column for the *Village Voice* and writes regularly about music for the *Wall Street Journal*, described how the atmosphere of bigotry in Boston aided his journalistic ability. "In a sense, I feel that all the harassment and anti-Semitism that I experienced has been a positive in my life and for my career. I have learned to deal with being an outsider in life and I have learned to isolate myself as a journalist because my beliefs have never been popular." As chief editor of the *Northeastern News*, Hentoff would often write about the anti-Semitism in Boston. He received much criticism for these "unpopular" articles and was even scolded by fellow Jews for "rocking the boat."

Popular or not, Hentoff was and still is and unafraid to state his beliefs. In the recent interview, Hentoff articulated his view of President George W. Bush's inaugural speech and voiced his

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Film Derives Impact From Reality of Genocide

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educate the public. This one educates viewers on something about which most Americans know very little, and "there is incredible value in that."

Hotel Rwanda does entertain. Yet its factual portrayal of such an important event is what makes it so worthwhile. As a feature film, however, *Hotel Rwanda* is able to do what most documentaries cannot. Beyond simply drawing more

people into theaters, it also makes the facts more accessible to viewers. Since it focuses only on a few characters, it allows the viewer to become personally engaged in the story. The effect is achieved by the superb acting in the film. Don Cheadle was nominated for both a Golden Globe and an Academy Award, and Sophie Okonedo was nominated for an Oscar for her intense portrayal of Paul Rusesabagina's wife Tatiana. Viewers

are spellbound by the fate of these two characters, and can relate, in some way, to the struggles of the Rwandans during the genocide.

Like *Schindler's List*, *Hotel Rwanda* tells an incredible story. Its plot and character development would be remarkable works of fiction. The real power of the film, however, lies in its truth. It reveals the terrifying reality of an event that is now forgotten by

most of the world. Moreover, it shows the shameful indifference of the United States at the time, which is today reflected by our lack of knowledge about the event. *Hotel Rwanda* is an inspiring story, but it is also a testimony to a disturbing truth. In the context of current events in Congo and Sudan, it is a warning to never again allow ignorance to obscure the suffering of thousands whose lives could be saved.

Festival Brings Japanese Culture to Boston

BY QINGNI LIN, I
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

Hidden in Boston's busy Jamaica Plain, on a secluded campus covered in miles of snow, lies an undiscovered gem, the Showa Institute of Boston for Japanese women exchange students. On Saturday, January 22, Showa opened its doors to the public for its annual Showa Festival, a chance for all people to celebrate and to see Japanese culture for more than the general perception of sushi and kimonos.

Snow flurries blew in from the outside as excited Japanese girls in colorful silken traditional dress and program coordinators in blue Showa robes welcomed spectators into the main lobby. The crowd was ushered into the heart of the festival after being given a schedule of the seemingly endless chain of events.

In the lobby before the exhibits, one of the Japanese students delicately strummed a Koto, a traditional Japanese instrument with slight resemblance to the harp, while trying her best to answer the questions posed to her by the admiring audience. The Rainbow Room, a long sun room, showcased round tables displaying brilliant flower arrangements accompanied by strategically placed origami cranes, stuffed animals and, oddly enough, Mr. Potato Head. The quick lesson on basic Japanese flower arrangement was not at all simple, as the most basic of the arrangements involved complex geometric calculation and the delicate balance of fengshui. The art of flower arranging, or *Ikabana*, is now a mainly recreational aspect of Japanese culture that once represented an important skill for the Japanese woman, according to Showa Fellow Chikako Mita.



BY QINGNI LIN (I)

Besides the fascinating traditional tea ceremony and flower arrangements that made up the main event of the Showa Festival, the classrooms along the central hallway of the school showcased different stages of Japanese life. Stumbling upon the "College Life" room, visitors happened upon dancing Japanese students in hip college-style garb, brightly dyed hair and bottles of Kirin Ichiban with the dire warning, "No drinking. Legal drinking age in U.S. is twenty-one!" These fascinating classrooms begin with "Birth," a room containing a cradle, baby Japanese kimonos, an explanation of baby names, and end with "Death," an explanation of traditional superstitions associated with death, a usually taboo subject in traditional Japanese culture. Posters filled with interesting facts about Japanese life in English for parents, as well as all sorts of toys, cartoons, even cooking

shows for children made every room seem like a pink balloon-covered gold mine. Also featured in these rooms was an inkstand where anyone could try a hand at traditional Japanese calligraphy and a tree where written wishes could be hung.

Before the end of the show, an hour was devoted to student performances by nearly all the girls in the entire school. Choirs sang harmonic songs from Japanese pop and traditional culture; talented women displayed their skills on Taiko drums, played the piano and sang opera in multiple languages. There was even a pep squad performing in brightly colored uniforms.

Yoshie Mahoney, the Health Services Director, commented on the success of the festival: "Students have been working so hard for this festival. I was surprised and pleased by their enthusiasm."



BY QINGNI LIN (I)

新年快乐，万事如意！

To BLS Community:
We wish you a happy Chinese New Year,

拉丁学校中华文化联谊会

A greeting from Friends of Chinese
Culture (FCC)

This Valentine's Day,
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KRISTINE XUE, MICHELLE YAN, CHENGLIN YUAN, EMILY YUAN, LINDA
ZHENG

A & E

Bhangra Bash Promotes Desi Culture and Aids Tsunami Victims

By DASHA CHESTUKHIN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The lights were dimmed and saris were draped everywhere. Beautiful lotus-shaped candles decorated every table. It sounds like an upscale restaurant, but it was really the Boston Latin School Dining Hall, decorated for the first-ever Bhangra Bash. Hosted by the Desi Society, a club dedicated to teaching people about the culture of the Indian subcontinent, it showed students at Boston Latin exactly what Desi culture is like.

The Bash commenced with classical Indian dancing set to a traditional Indian song. This beautiful dance was followed by a fashion show in which all the members of the Desi society participated. Each person was clad in traditional Indian *sari*, including beautiful saris decorated with gold embroidery. A second dance known as fusion followed the fashion show. This is a type of dance that combines elements of both Indian and hip-hop dancing set to modern Indian pop music. The dance floor was then opened to the public, with DJ Junior Uditnairain (I) blasting Indian as well as Hispanic music and rap. And this was all before the delicious dinner was served. Food was donated by two Indian restaurants in the area, Kashmir and Bengal Café, and was absolutely delicious.

As everyone was enjoying the dinner and dancing, a table was set up where people could get a gorgeous henna tattoo, free of charge. The night ended with a performance by Boston Bhangra, a professional dance troupe specializing in Bhangra, a type of Indian dance that is very upbeat and energetic. All who came

got a chance to enjoy themselves, whether by watching one of the "Bollywood" movies playing the entire time, by dancing to one of many songs from different cultures that were played or by eating the spicy

Indian food.

According to co-president Tamkinat Firoz (I), one of the Bhangra Bash's goals was to expose people to all things Indian in a fun setting, where they can "learn

the culture, eat the food [and] listen to the music." It was also a fundraiser for the Boston Latin School Tsunami Relief Fund, with all proceeds going to the Red Cross.



BLS STUDENTS DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT CELEBRATION OF INDIAN CULTURE.

By Anusha Anukanth, I

Jennifer Lawrence: Painter on Pointe

Arts Spotlight
by Elena Damaskos, I

Whether on stage, in a studio, or outside on the streets of Boston, Jennifer Lawrence incorporates art into all areas of her life. It is no coincidence that her earliest memory involves art: watching her mother paint Dalmatians on the wall of her younger brother's bedroom when she was only two years old. Whether she is painting in art class or making handmade greeting cards for fun, Jennifer's patience with the brush, as well as the talent she has gained from years of informal practice and classes at the Museum of Fine Arts, are evident in the time she commits and the detail she incorporates.

In school, Jennifer's talent can be viewed in the Arts wing corridors. There she continues to study and learn in Mr. Steve Harris' AP art class. Her work, concentrating on the theme of ballet, allows her "to bridge the gap between [her] most important interests," she says, and to express herself in a way that suits her quiet personality. Tiny dots of different colors make up the graceful figures she paints, resulting in pieces that come alive with precise detail. Outside the art studio, Jennifer crosses over from creator to critic as a board member of *The Register*. An enthusiastic member since her sophomore year, she has quickly become Art Editor. Though she has never submitted any of her own work to its pages, she works be-

hind the scenes, deliberating about which pieces to include—a time-consuming process that often lasts for weeks.

In addition to the hard work she has committed to *The Register* and her diligent efforts in the Arts wing, Jennifer is also a dedicated member of the Boston Mural Crew. Over the past three summers, she has worked on five different murals across the city, celebrating the diverse communities and adding beauty to previously bland cement walls. One can observe her beautiful handiwork on the murals depicting Olympians, the Boston Symphony and Mission Hill students alike. For the past several summers, Jen has devoted herself to this underrated community service, learning both about painting and her passions. When she first started on the Crew, Jennifer was unsure of her craft and uncomfortable with the intimidating task of mural painting. But now she admits that through "the discipline and

comfort of creating large-scale artwork," she has gained the skill and confidence that allow her "the freedom to explore the world" outside of the classroom. Today she has never been more certain or proud of her work.

Although this might surprise those

who mistake her quiet demeanor for shyness, Jennifer is no stranger to the spotlight. Already a prima ballerina at four years old, Jennifer has known the anxieties and ecstasies of theater from an early age. Today she is far from the little girl in the pink tutu. She



PHOTOGRAPH BY CATHY HILL STUDIOS

has morphed into an avid dancer and devotes what is left of her free time to classes. Four times a week, Jennifer treks over to Newton where she practices as a student of the Boston Ballet. Dance for her is more than just an extracurricular. In fact, it is the self-described "passion" from

which she finds "the greatest happiness" during the school week.

While most of the student body looks forward to the respite from classes, Jennifer's unlikely highlight of the holiday season is the chance to perform for eager audiences in the hallowed halls of the Wang Center and most recently, the Colonial Theater. Taking on the roles of reindeer or angels in *The Nutcracker*, Jennifer thrives in the performance setting, which she describes as "one of [her] greatest experiences." Since she has had the opportunity to revel in the world of professional dancers, Jen's love for ballet has increased. She is confident that dance will always be a part of her life, though perhaps not its main focus.

Although a career in the arts seems written in the stars, Jennifer again surprises in her pursuit to study civil engineering in college. Whether she becomes a world renowned painter whose work adorns gallery walls, a builder constructing impressive architecture or a Radio City Rockette, Jennifer will be successful due to her uncanny ability to thrive in diverse environments. With far more than just an impressive resume, Jen is constantly adapting and perfecting her many talents. She is truly destined for a bright and surprising future.

Hentoff Emphasizes Civil Rights Awareness

Continued from Page 4

opinion on the current status of the presidency. "Bush's speech was fine or it would be if there was a possibility of the freedom and liberty he discussed actually becoming a reality. I am not a Bush hater but there is one thing that really bothers me about him. He has never had a course in our constitution and he's tone deaf on civil liberties," he said.

It was apparent through the interview that Hentoff considered our civil liberties and constitutional rights a vital part of our education. Hentoff described what he views as an educational failure, stating, "One of the major problems in

our school system is that one of the least taught subjects is our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Many Americans don't know their rights. For all the respect I have for Boston Latin School and other schools, I feel that if a school doesn't teach the history of the Constitution and why we are Americans, then that school is stifling their students." Promoting civil liberties and educating Americans about constitutional rights has become a life-long mission for Hentoff. In his recent book, *The War on the Bill of Rights and the Gathering Resistance*, Hentoff promoted awareness of these issues and condemned violations of our

civil liberties.

Hentoff has always remained passionate about politics. When asked about his assessment of current affairs, he contrasted past genocide with the problems of the world today, saying, "After the Holocaust occurred, we said never again. Then comes Rwanda where over 800,000 people were slaughtered as a result of the genocide and Clinton didn't even try to stop it. Now we have the situation in Darfur in Sudan, which the United States has already called genocide. There is mass rape and murder and the UN hasn't done a damn thing about it."

Many things relating to Hentoff's life have evolved over the years. Whether it is world politics, the Roxbury neighborhood in which he grew up, the disappearance of the jazz clubs he once haunted or the school on Avenue Louis Pasteur, not much in Hentoff's life has remained static. His love for jazz, his unyielding and outspoken political views and his desire for world justice are some of the few things that remain constant in Hentoff's life. Hentoff, never a conventionalist, will remain admired for his fierce independence and writings that unceasingly expose the truth and promote justice for all.

Morency Shines Her Way to Idol Crown

BY DANIELA HUYNH, I
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

The only thought in senior Francesca Morency's mind when she stepped up on stage at BLS Idol's first annual show was to have fun.

"I just went up there and tried to have a good time. The audience was great," says Morency of her performance. "You could feel the energy."

Morency was voted into the group of the top six singers chosen to compete for the coveted position of being Boston Latin School's first Idol. After numerous rounds of auditioning and hours of vocal practices at home and in school, Morency made the final cut. In the end, she felt that "it was all worth it. All the effort and the practicing paid off. And I'm proud to be someone who people can look up to and to be able to set a good example for future Idols."

The concept of BLS Idol was created by Dominic French (II) months ago and when Morency heard about the idea, she immediately jumped on board.

"I thought that it was a good idea. It appealed to me because I love to sing and to perform in front of an audience." Morency was the first of seven performers, including guest performer Jeff Bausmer (I), to hit the stage in the Black Box Theater. She wowed the crowd with LeAnn Rimes's *How Do I Live*.

When asked why she chose that particular song to sing, Morency responded, "I sang *How Do I Live* at a dinner reception for my grandma's 80th birthday. Every time I sing it, I remem-



(LEFT) THE THREE IDOL FINALISTS, TIFFANY NETTER (VI), FRANCESCA MORENCY (I) AND ALLEGRA FLETCHER (IV) (LEFT TO RIGHT) EAGERLY ANTICIPATE RESULTS FROM HOST LIAM MCCABE (I) AS FRANCESCA SANG HER WAY TO HER CROWN EARLIER (RIGHT)



ber my grandma and I sing for her."

When Morency sings for any audience, however, she always gives a show. Mr. Christopher Charig, one of the judges at BLS Idol night, commented that Morency appeared "confident" and Nathan Allukian (I) said that she had "great facial expressions and body language."

It was made clear during Morency's performance that she loves to sing and has great talent as well. Morency said that she did not think about winning. Instead, she concentrated on nailing the technical aspects of her performance; afterwards, she relaxed and enjoyed the show. The truth of the matter was that

Morency felt more anxious about getting ready to sing than about the singing itself. But she felt that she did well and had a great time seeing the remaining performers on stage and listening to their songs. Praising her fellow competitors, she said that "the other performers were so good because all of them were different and real."

Nevertheless, Morency stole the show when she won the most votes and was selected as the Idol. Winning two gift cards, \$100 in cash, and a solo spot on Music Night in April that will be recorded onto a CD, she had much to be happy about. Calling her mother on the phone after the show, Morency

shared her plans about what to do with her winnings: "I'm going to give some money to the Tsunami Relief [Fund] and maybe take my friends out to dinner and have a girls' night out."

So what goals lie ahead for the talented Ms. Morency? "After college and a few years of traveling," she confided, "I want to sing on Broadway!" Morency is also interested in pursuing the field of pediatrics but she admits that "singing will always be a part of my life."

If her performance at BLS Idol were any slight indication of her skills in the spotlight, Morency has a definite future in stardom.

Musical Opportunities at Berklee

BY MEGAN PITTS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While walking down Massachusetts Avenue on a warm summer evening, you might be able to hear the faint sounds of the SYSTEM 5 jazz ensemble practicing in the cavernous basement of the 511 Berklee building. This is where some of Boston Public Schools' most talented musicians gather to develop their musical skills and prepare for their chance to perform in front of hundreds at the final concert in the Berklee Performance Center.

SYSTEM 5, the Summer Youth Scholarship for Talent and Excellence in Music, is an opportunity for Boston's students to participate for free in the Five-Week Summer Performance Program at Berklee College of Music. In

this program, they can study any type of music they desire: Pop, R&B, Rock, Jazz, Funk or Latin.

Many Boston Latin School students have participated in this program on full or partial scholarships funded by the BLS Big Band's winnings at the Berklee Jazz Festival. Aside from the experience of performing in both large and small ensembles, students who participate in this program are all taught by Berklee professors, working on their own instrument or voice part and taking a private lesson, a music theory class and an elective. Electives include Music Synthesis, Songwriting, Recording Styles and Great Performers. Classes range from beginner to the most advanced and students are placed according to the results of the exam taken at the beginning of the program. This enables everyone to learn

at their own level.

Another terrific aspect of SYSTEM 5 is that the lucky students who receive the scholarship are also invited to participate in the Boston Youth Fund's summer employment program. Participation in this Berklee program is listed as a summer job, and therefore, BPS students under the age of 18 who have received the scholarship can also get paid for the five weeks over which the program takes place.

One of the least advertised benefits of the program is that for the entire five weeks, participants are given the same privileges as regular Berklee students. Students are allowed complete access to their library and practice rooms. Their library has state-of-the-art computers, an extensive CD collection, videos, sheet music and other references. It's every

musician's dream.

Every year, students of varying ages and backgrounds participate in the program. Last year, there were some from as far as Germany and Brazil. If anything, this is an amazing opportunity to meet people from all over the world with one universal interest in music. The many concerts and "jam sessions" at night and on weekends take music out of the classroom. Berklee offers a great chance to connect with fellow musicians and hear the professionals play.

For 2005, the application deadline is in early February, and auditions will be taking place the second week of March. The program runs from the second week of July until the second week of August. Contact Mr. Paul Pitts for more information.

Class of 2005 Will Graduate Without



THE SCHOOL'S RACIAL COMPOSITION HAS CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE THE END OF RACE-BASED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.

BY JULIA ARNOUS, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

About 14 percent of Boston Public Schools' students are white. At Boston Latin School, more than half the students are white. The student bodies of other public high schools in Boston more closely correlate with the overall student body of BPS. At Boston Latin Academy, the student body is 21.8 percent Asian, 26.9 percent black, 11.7 percent Hispanic, and 39.4 percent white. The John D. O'Bryant is 22.8 percent Asian, 48.2 percent black, 16.9 percent Hispanic, and 11.6 percent white. In contrast, the percentage of white students at Boston Latin is nearly four times that of white students in the BPS.

Boston Latin School's Class of 2005 was the first to be admitted entirely without racial quotas, which in turn brought about an immediate drop in the number of Black and Hispanic students. Legislation requiring the exam schools to maintain diverse student populations was dismantled in February 1999 in response to a lawsuit filed by a student who had been denied admission. The controversial policy was originally set in place in 1974, only two years after the school became coeducational. A case was filed by the families of several black children stating that the school system violated the Fourteenth Amendment by intentionally segregating Boston schools.

Four years after it was filed, Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr. ruled that intentional segregation was indeed prevalent in the BPS system, and ordered the school committee to desegregate it through busing, facility improvement, and racial quotas. In each public school, 35 percent of available seats were reserved for minority students. Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy (then Girls' Latin), and the John D. O'Bryant school (then Boston Technical High), though exam schools, were no exception.

This system was challenged in 1995 when Julia McLaughlin, who was not accepted into the ninth grade at Latin School, claimed that she had been discriminated against because she was white. She insisted that even though she had received a high score on the entrance examination, more than 100 minority students with lower scores were given seats at the prestigious institution. Though it was ruled again by Arthur Garrity that Julia had not been discriminated against, the system used in the admissions process was re-tailored to prevent another such claim. All students hoping to attend Boston Latin were now ranked according to their scores on the entrance exam and grades earned in fifth and sixth grade. With race not taken into account, 50 percent of the available seats were given to the top-ranked students. The remaining seats were filled proportionately, based on the racial backgrounds of the rest of the applicant pool.

This system remained in effect until 1998, when another student, Sarah Wessman, filed a suit with the same claim as Julia McLaughlin. Her case fell to Judge

Joseph Tauro, who ruled that the admission system was not unconstitutional because the system was necessary to eliminate the segregationist practices of the Boston School Committee. However, his decision was reversed by the United States 1st District Court of Appeals, making it necessary to eliminate all racial quotas in the BPS.

The fact that more than 50 percent of Boston Latin students come from primarily white private schools is often called into question. In most cases the parents of these students have paid Boston taxes for as long as the parents of public school students, and thus many argue that their children have as much a right to attend BLS. Others, however, object to the advantage of a private school education which better prepares students to take the entrance exam, in contrast to the situation at the majority of Boston Public Schools. Most parents of students who attend private schools are financially able to continue paying for their educations, while those students from the Boston Public Schools who are not accepted into an exam school are stuck in the BPS.

Ms. Rachel Skerritt, who was the National Honor Society (NHS) president as a senior at Latin School, and an English major and African-American studies minor at the University of Pennsylvania, is now a member of the English department at Boston Latin. She says that she has noticed a decline in the number of minority students and in turn, students from Boston public elementary and middle schools who attend the school. "Being that we're a Boston Public School, we owe BPS students," she says. Skerritt, Mr. Jim Montague, head of the guidance department, and other members of the faculty are involved in Optimizing Student Outcomes (OSO), a group comprised of staff, parents and students whose goal is to "recruit and retain" students from BPS. "Though it has been made challenging by recent court decisions, it is important to maintain a diverse student body," says Mr. Montague. OSO organizes summer programs aimed specifically at students from elementary schools that are underrepresented at Latin School. Members of the OSO have organized open houses for fifth graders in the Boston Public Schools, circulated flyers among sixth graders, and generally made significant efforts to provide clear information about the exam and easy access to preparation aid.

Steve Fernandez, a former physics teacher at BLS, was also disturbed by the disparities in racial representation, as well as by the difficulty he had in accessing related data eventually included in his 2003 report, "The Achievement Gap at Boston Latin School." In this report he claims that in 2000, Head Master Cornelia Kelley vetoed a "formal request for data on the achievement gap" that "the majority of the School Site Council" had wished to grant.

Despite efforts by the OSO and activists such as Fernandez, the disparity in racial representation at Boston Latin remains. "I don't know a real reason," said



PHOTOS BY LEAH SKAHEN (3)

Eleanor Adams, Student Assignment Program Specialist, Exam Schools & AWC, when asked why there was such an enrollment gap. "I'm not going to comment," she said, quickly ending the conversation after pressing the hold button for several minutes. When interviewed after a meeting of the Boston Student Advisory Council, BPS Superintendent Dr. Thomas Payzant expressed his disappointment that attempts to preserve the quota system had failed. However, he has strong doubts that the system will be reinstated. Ruthzee Louijeune, Vice President of the Class of 2004, has a similar view of the situation. "In the BPS system, more than 75 percent of attendees identify as either black or Hispanic. Boston Latin School, a Boston Public School...has a bare representation of these racial groups—a sad 15 percent. Until there is a serious reformation of the BPS system—including officials, teachers, students, and parents—there will never be an equal playing field. No one can deny this statement when you look at the numbers. The racial quota system allows students—myself included—to actually reach their potential instead of it being shuffled around in the BPS system. It is not discrimination: it is an attempt to correct injustices that exist in America's public school system."

Not only is there a racial disparity in the overall acceptance of students to Boston Latin School, but the trend continues throughout their Boston Latin careers, as black students are also underrepresented in Advanced Placement and Honors courses. The sample AP English section has three or four black students, while the AP European History section has "a few." Two black students take AP Computer Science, and a total of three black students are enrolled in two AP Writing sections. One black student takes AP Latin: Vergil, and two AP U.S. History sections have one and zero black students, respectively. There are no black students in AP Physics or AP Calculus BC.

It has yet to be seen if this disparity will be remedied, and if so, by what measures. However, the current race-blind admissions system has so far meant a drastic change in the makeup of the Latin School student body. On a larger scale, the lack of diversity at Boston Latin is representative of a similar situation in American academics, and the debate over affirmative action in the Boston Public Schools is part of a national debate as old as the Civil Rights movement.



"No, it's based solely on academics. There'll always be minorities that get in, but if more minorities get in than whites or vice versa that that's just what happens and it's an accurate portrayal of academic performance. Any attempt to doctor up the acceptance is lame."

—Mark Duhaime, I



"No, because people get into BLS by taking a test, not because they're a specific race. Not being able to get in because there are too many people of one race is stupid."

—Stefanie Chan, II



"No, because it wouldn't be fair if only a certain amount of people from a certain race were allowed in. It wouldn't be fair and especially since we are supposed to be a 'diverse school.' Being a diverse school doesn't mean we put a limitation to the diversity."

—Rose Delorme, III

Quotas; Race Question Raised Again

Should a racial quota system be reinstated at Boston Latin School?

Yes

BY ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I &
JEFF BAUSEMER, I
STAFF WRITER & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Discrimination within the public school system is not a new issue. Our fine and liberal city of Boston has a revolting history of racial prejudice. The busing issue of the 1970's is a prime example of the deeply rooted and intense racism that existed and continues to exist within Boston. One would assume that fifty years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, this would be a non-issue. However, recent advancements, such as the implementation of Affirmative Action in colleges, have demonstrated the need to reinstate a racial quota at the Boston Latin School.

Since racial quotas have been discarded, the number of Blacks and Hispanics at Boston Latin has dropped substantially. Before 1996, these two racial groups made up thirty-five percent of the student body. Today, combined, they make up barely fifteen percent. Moreover, Blacks and Hispanics account for almost seventy percent of the student body in the Boston Public Schools as a whole, a number grossly misrepresented at Boston Latin. Within Class V, merely twenty eight out of three hundred and seventy nine students identify themselves as black. This number is not enough to even make up a homeroom.

Racial quotas introduce cultural balance and diversity into the student body and, through clubs such as *TAG*, *Cape Verdean Club* and *The Young Leaders of Color*, also provide much-needed support groups. Black, Hispanic, and other minority communities have a unique obligation to be culturally and politically aware in order to become socially adept. Without a strong representation of these cultural groups within the school, both quantitative and qualitative, the likeliness of this obligation being realized becomes jeopardized.

The equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution prohibits states from denying any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of its laws, contingent on the circumstances and conditions of that individual. Although this amendment was introduced primarily to protect the Black community, it now seems to be the prime factor in depriving minority communities of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In principle, it denies the legality of such systems as racial quotas, or affirmative action, and consequently hurts these groups even more. However, due to the numerous loopholes in the Constitution, the deprivation of a reasonably set representation system, such as the quota, could also be considered unconstitutional.

Obviously, at BLS, we have residents from all regions of the city; however, a disproportionate number seem to reside in West Roxbury and are, for the most part, Caucasian and economically secure. Many of their parents pay hundreds of dollars for the prep courses that practically guarantee entrance so that they do not have to pay for a private school education—even though they could technically afford one. This advantage is not awarded to those economically deprived in other neighborhoods: as always, it boils down to economics. On average, African-Americans and Hispanics are not as wealthy as Caucasian Americans, and suffer from political and social inequality as well. They are every bit as capable of succeeding at BLS, but were born in neighborhoods with bad schools. As a result, they never will be able to get ahead or compete with students with economic advantage. Though these issues are outside of the hands of the BLS administration, BLS can, to some extent, equalize opportunity on the basis of an applicant's social standing.

Economically, socially, and politically, minorities have received history's shaft and continue to be underrepresented across the board. Yet, as both a social and educational institution, Boston Latin School is morally bound to help correct these injustices.



BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

No

BY ISAAC MEISTER, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From the time Judge Garrity's now famous desegregation plan for the Boston Public Schools was put into action in 1975 until it was overturned in 1995, Boston Latin School was encouraged by law to fill 35 percent of its admitted classes with black and Hispanic students. When Boston Latin School's Class of 2005 crosses the stage this June, they will become the first graduating class in three decades to have been admitted to the school solely on the basis of their score on the ISEE exam and their cumulative grades in English and Math. Critics have rightly pointed out that diversity in terms of black and Hispanic enrollment has suffered since the end of racial quotas, but there can be no question that the only fair admission policy for Latin School is a race-blind one.

Undoubtedly, the current racial makeup of our school is seriously skewed. If the Boston

Public Schools were providing a quality education for all of its attendees, we would expect enrollment in Boston Latin School to roughly resemble the overall figures for the district. The question I pose to you is this: if Boston Latin School's enrollment numbers don't add up, why isn't scrutiny being cast on the very schools that should be *feeding* it? Any school board that permits the educational situation in public schools to degenerate to such an extent that it is necessary to manipulate exam school admissions policies ought to seriously re-evaluate its priorities. Ultimately, racial quotas are little more than a band-aid solution. There is no way to tell how many students of all races would have been admitted to exam schools if the Boston Public Schools' educational policies had been up to snuff.

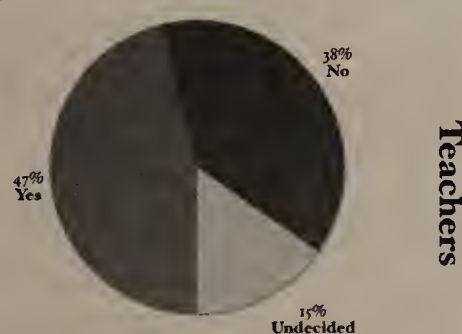
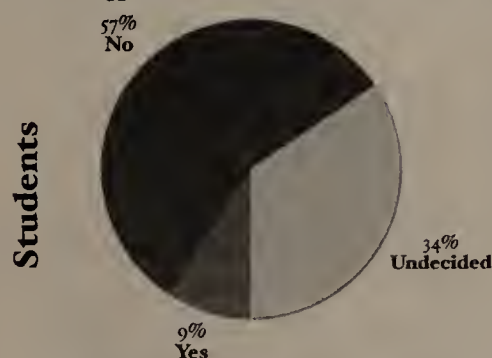
Furthermore, quotas are patronizing. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned a world in which members of society are not judged by the color of their skin—for better, or, perhaps, for worse. A racial quota system sends a clear message: black and Hispanic students simply don't have what it takes to get into competitive schools on their own merit. As we all know, that simply isn't true. Although enrollment of blacks and Hispanics has dropped from the federally mandated 35 percent to a more modest 15 percent, students are still gaining admittance—and are succeeding. The grade seven ELA scores for black students are the highest of any of the ethnic subgroups here at Boston Latin, according to the annual School Report Card, and in grade 10 ELA, Hispanics outperform every other ethnic subgroup. Black and Hispanic students do not need a handicap to succeed at BLS—there's no reason to apply one to admission.

Most importantly, quotas overlook a greater source of injustice than race: money. Under the current race-blind admission system—and even under quotas—one can buy a seat at Boston Latin School. Expensive test preparation, greater parent participation and private schooling are all ways wealthier families can gain a educational advantage that some consider unfair in a public school system. Quota systems not only don't address this—they aggravate it. Under our current admission policy, a student who has never seen the inside of a public school can deprive *any* underprivileged student, but under quotas, white and Asian students near the poverty line are unfairly handicapped by their race *and* economic status. Quota systems compound the problems of racism with those of classism.

Six years after the end of race-based admissions to Boston Latin School, it is as obvious today as it was then that the school's racial makeup doesn't really reflect the Boston Public Schools as a whole, but quotas are *not* the answer. The city of Boston must not force the parents and students it serves to choose between diversity and equality.

POLL QUESTION:

Should affirmative action be a part of the admissions process to BLS?



GRAPHICS BY ISAAC MEISTER (I)



"No, because you should only get in based on your grades."
—Toan Do, IV



"Of course not! People shouldn't be judged on their race to get into this school."
—Finora Franck, V



"Yes, there should be because you get to meet different people with different backgrounds. In other schools there's usually only few different races."
—Liana Lamattina, VI

Olena Savvytska

FORUM

The Right to Reform

In 1961, at the age of 19, Wilbert Rideau appeared before the Calcasieu Parish court charged with murder. A young African-American judged by an all-white jury, Rideau was sentenced to a lifetime behind bars as a criminal who had ruthlessly taken the life of another. He was carted off as hopeless, just another face in the sea of many who had let emotion override sense.

Instead, Rideau became a "journalist behind bars" who wrote and advocated for prison reform in America. He was a hero of the most courageous sort: a man who had dared to turn away from his past, from the mistakes of a difficult childhood, and reform himself spiritually. This past month, he was finally released after a 40-year tenure in prison; his newfound freedom, however, was met with little enthusiasm from members of his community. Instead of being heralded, he was subjected to treatment that was inexcusable, in light of the time he had spent reforming himself.

Wilbert Rideau was born to a destitute African-American family in

Louisiana. His childhood was framed by the prejudice of the Jim Crow Era: signs on restrooms and water fountains designating well-kept facilities for "whites" and filthy corners for the "colored;" daily lynchings without warning or explanation; the unsanitary hospital rooms in which blacks were born; and the barren dirt in which they decayed, buried without ceremony, forgotten by the world in life as well as in death.

An individual struggles to stay pure amidst the dirt of persecution, neglect and discrimination. In times of adversity, humans will find any means of survival. Not out of sheer spite or jealousy did Rideau murder a white bank teller. He was desperate, helpless and afraid. He was afraid of the whites who exploited him at a young age and paid him less than the minimum wage; he was afraid of these same whites who murdered, without an afterthought, any African-American unfortunate enough to attract their notice. These whites, who held back every human right from southern blacks and who committed the cruelest crimes against

African-Americans, had no right to condemn so insensitively this desperate young man to whom their behavior had served as an example, a young man who had never known what justice was—not with regards to himself, nor with regards to his treatment of others.

Rideau spent four decades in prison instead of the usual 10 served by a "lifer" in Louisiana. He realized that his terrible act of violence only gave whites further reasons to detest and distrust blacks. Reality was inexorable for Rideau. He had been permanently cast off by society, guilty not only of being African-American (his principal fault in the eyes of the judges), but also of murdering a white woman. Rideau, however, sought an alternate reality, finding solace in the world of writing. While awaiting his execution, he wrote a volume discussing the nature of crime and the criminal. He also composed articles and documentaries, among them *Tossing Away the Keys*, an account of the life of convicts at Angola Penitentiary.

At last, Rideau began to receive recognition as a talented writer who had

suffered injustice, oppression and racism. He revealed to America his fear, his feeling of violation, the despair and loneliness of an African-American both in and out of prison. Thanks to the efforts of his supporters, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Rideau's 1961 trial invalid in 2000 on account of racial discrimination in the selection of the grand jury. Only last month, however, was he finally released as a "reformed convict."

Let us hope now that Rideau's society has reformed during his stay in prison. Let us hope that in the future no man will murder in order to battle racial discrimination, nor suffer poverty because of his ethnicity. Rideau would eat only a cold sweet potato for lunch. He quit school at age 13 to earn money. He was violated by his society in every way, and was driven in his misery to murder. He must be forgiven—forgiven for being a "reckless black." For that is the real crime behind his imprisonment.

Olena Savvytska is a member of Class III.

Sourney Lor

Unhappily Ever After

After seven years of marriage, Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston decided to call it quits. The public response to their announcement was overwhelming. Like a torrent from a tsunami, an outpour of disbelief and rage surfaced: magazines seized the opportunity to flesh out their theories, and fan girls everywhere began stamping love letters to Pitt once again.

With all the paparazzi attention devoted to Brad and Jen these past seven years, the public no doubt has good reason to feel attached. After all, we embarked on a personal journey with them when we learned how they met, watched as they fell in love, and looked on approvingly as they sealed their fates in matrimony. We warmed at the thought that a Hollywood couple had finally made it. Amidst all of the crazy "ten-minute relationships" spearheaded by Britney, the unlikely "I don't know how it happened" excuses, and the Las Vegas marriages, Brad and Jen had found in each other someone with whom to balance family and career. They were supposedly best friends. It was a fairy tale we had all believed ended with "happily



COURTESY OF WWW.PINKPOND.COM

ever after."

Yet it seems now that even "happily ever after" is not enough.

Many people look up to stars to

live the lives that they dream of having, the lives that they cannot afford. When celebrities mess up, the public analyzes their mistakes and tries to see what went wrong. They are constantly under a microscope: praised for their acute fashion sense and condemned for their flaws.

In the real world, couples fall apart and change is inevitable; there is no jolly clichéd ending. But Brad and Jen seemed to have epitomized an ideal for which the 21st century is constantly searching. When rumors first began circulating about "tension" in their marriage, the vast majority of us disregarded these reports as lies the tabloids had formulated in order to attract attention. In truth, we did not want to believe these rumors; we did not want to consider that the one couple in whom we had invested so much hope could be in trouble.

But when Brad and Jen finally pub-

licized the news of their breakup on January 7, 2005, they left the world in shock. They asserted that they were still friends but would instead be doing their "own thing" now—without one another. Brad was spotted riding his motorcycle, taking strolls along the beach, advocating for the Tsunami Relief Fund and promoting his new movie. Jen continued to work on her film *Friends with Money*. They both held their beautiful heads high, leaving behind their marriage with as much grace as they had entered it. It was the public who seemed to grieve, who offered sympathy and needed to receive sympathy in return. In the wake of Brad and Jen's separation, we grieved for the couple whose break symbolized the split of all splits, as they were the couple of all couples.

Nevertheless, even as Brad and Jen begin to evolve into individuals, they hold on to memories of their marriage. They continue to wear their wedding bands and share a house. But these are empty hopes: the fairy tale seems at last to be ending.

Sourney Lor is a member of Class IV.

Queen Arsem-O'Malley

Farewell, Flintstones

Raphael, Michelangelo, Donatello and Leonardo... those were the good days. These names are rarely heard today, except perhaps on VH1's *I Love the 80's*. I don't know about you, but every lazy Saturday morning when I turn on the television set to the WB or Cartoon Network, only *Yu-Gi-Oh* and various other cartoons that look and sound exactly the same are airing. My apologies to those of you who enjoy the "I'm-gonna-beat-you-with-my-monster-card" brand of cartoons, but after five minutes of watching one, I can predict its outcome, and after 10, I'm bored to tears.

I often ask my brother how he can bear to sit in front of the television set and waste his precious time staring at this idiocy. After all, a cartoon is supposed to be funny. Even the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a "cartoon" as a drawing intended to be satirical or humorous. Instead,

these new cartoons consist of characters skipping around mindlessly while playing cards and bantering. Well, I don't know about you, but I can skip around and play cards to my heart's content without having to watch strange animated characters do it. What's really mind-boggling, though, is that half of these "cartoons" are exactly the same. The occasional monster and character have different names, but that's about the only difference I see.

Whatever happened to *real* Saturday morning cartoons? The classics? The ones that everyone knows and loves but can never find on television anymore? Or they still do exist—albeit in the form of awful movie remakes like *Scooby-Doo*. Can you say the worst CG dog ever dreamt? The film did no justice to the classic cartoon, and cruelly butchered everyone's fond memories of the show.

What about the *Teenage Mutant*

Ninja Turtles, *The Jetsons*, *The Flintstones* (hey, educational, right? It's kind of ancient history), and *Tom & Jerry*? If everyone's so worried about violent television in the modern age, why keep these new shows on the air? Not only are their characters battling crazy nemeses who suffer perennially from bad hair days, but their merchandise is so popular that kids wrestle over cards in front of their television sets, while the characters do the same in the background.

This is an honest appeal: bring back *The Jetsons*, bring back *Popeye*, and bring back *Looney Tunes*. After all, the latter defined the "Saturday morning cartoon" without having to feature a *dramatis personae* that sported strange spiky hair. Who does not remember Sylvester's desperate attempts to capture Tweety or his famous line, "I twot I swaw a puddy cat," complete with theme music and sound ef-

fects? And Elmer Fudd, the rabbit-hating stuttering hunter? And the *ANIMANIACS*! Doc, Daisy and...Don? I can't even remember!

That's what TV is coming to—not remembering the *Animaniacs*. If everyone's so worried about what children are watching, stop worrying about incidents like Janet's boob and instead pay attention to the collapse of our cartoon industry. These new shows may not be as harmful as, say, a bullet to the head, but did anyone ever consider that they are numbing kids' minds without providing them any of the real humor and wit of the shows of yesteryear? Maybe that's why kids are obese these days! It's all because of weird animated fighting cards.

Yeah, that's definitely it.

Queen Arsem-O'Malley is a member of Class V.

Supreme Court Justices Gone Wild

BY YUCONG MA, II
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

Jon Stewart, ladies and gentlemen, is not feeling the love.

As the host of Comedy Central's liberal political satire *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*, this Jewish comedian is accustomed to criticism and attacks from right-wing Southerners. But this time around, Stewart is feeling the heat from the South in a different way. *America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction* is a work of wit, poking fun at and shedding a satirical light on everything in American politics, from the Founding Fathers to the foreign policies of the Bush administration. The recent self-proclaimed "fake civics textbook" produced by Stewart and the cast of *The Daily Show* has been declared the Best Book of 2004 by *Publisher's Weekly*, and since its release in September has spent more than 15 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list for hardcover nonfiction. In fact, it's gotten a generally warm reception from critics all over the nation for providing something laugh-worthy in the middle of a year fraught with political tension and an overseas war. That is, except for one librarian from Mississippi and one of the largest marketing names in America.

Currently, *America (The Book)* is banned from circulation in the Mississippi Jackson-George Regional Library System, neither is it sold on any shelves at a Wal-Mart near you. Yes, banned. Not because of Stewart's undeniably liberal slant, not—incredibly enough—because of its numerous jokes including crude sexual humor, and not because of its unflinching satire of the democratic process. Robert Willitis, the director of the Jackson-George Regional Library System, insists that the book would

have been printed if they had only not printed "that one page." The one page in question features a panel of nine naked Supreme Court Justices, and the facing page has nine cut-out robes along with a

a valid concern, libraries in addition to those of the traditionally conservative South would be banning the satirical work. Chances are, readers old enough to understand the nuances of American



"RESTORE THEIR DIGNITY BY MATCHING EACH JUSTICE WITH HIS OR HER RESPECTIVE ROBE"

plea for readers to "restore their dignity by matching each justice with his or her respective robe."

Evidently, Willitis is concerned that unwary adolescents and children could pick up this book and be exposed to such "adult material," but were it truly

politics will also be old enough to have already received "The Talk." In this situation, the benefits of gaining insight into American-style democracy and frankly, just getting a good laugh, far outweigh the possible damage done by seeing graphics of two-inch tall nude figures. Stewart's

own slant on this banning is that *America (The Book)* features far more controversial and "ban-worthy" matter, like jokes about a congressman "tea-bagging a hooker." A far more probable reason for the banning of *America (The Book)* lies in its undeniably liberal slant, commonly unsuitable for the palates of typically conservative Southerners. Seeing, however, as no other states, not even those of the Bible Belt such as Kentucky and Tennessee, have taken similar actions, it is clear that only Mississippi has chosen to take matters into its own hands.

As for Wal-Mart, Warner Books publisher Jamie Rabb cited that their order was dropped after learning of potentially offensive material. Of her own view on the matter, however, Rabb makes one of the most reasonable points in this argument. "It makes some kind of comment: Who are these people when they're stripped of their robes?" Rabb asks. "They're just like all these other saggy people. ... A robe doesn't the man make—or the woman."

So far, the book banning does not seem to have fazed Stewart. During a recent interview on *The Daily Show*, bestselling author John Grisham sympathized with Stewart, telling him that banning was "good" for book sales. While still too early to say whether book sales have spiked due to this ban, Stewart is certainly receiving large amounts of attention from the media and press. In a possible jab back at the billion-dollar company that spurned his book, however, Stewart presented a segment on January 21 attacking Wal-Mart for having "destroyed the fabric of small-town America." On the bright side, Stewart exclaims in mock delight, "Three dollars for a refrigerator?!"

Additional reporting from CNN (AP) and USA Today

A Cheap Remembrance

BY ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
STAFF WRITER

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we celebrate the life and legacy of a human being who revived the faith of a severely divided nation. Although legislation for the holiday was initiated only a few days after the activist's assassination, it took 15 years for it to finally be passed. People fought hard and devoted countless years to preserving the memory of Dr. King. Boston was among the few cities that began commemorating this hero even before the national observance was made official.

This year marked our city's thirty-fifth anniversary of the Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast. Upon my initial arrival at the new South Boston Convention Center, I was taken aback by the absolute extravagance of the affair. Elegant settings adorned the hundred-odd tables that encompassed the convention floor, a flash of lights panoramically stippled my vision, while a passing Senator John Kerry temporarily stole any clear conscious thought that I had at the moment. I must admit that my attention was provisionally diverted by the high-profile figures, the free breakfast and the NBC news crew shooting in my direction. Martin Luther King Jr. never even entered my thoughts. And as the ceremony went underway, this realization became more troubling.

The list of national and local politicians attending included Governor Mitt Romney, Senator John Kerry, Tom

Riley and Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Now keep in mind, this breakfast was supposed to be in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event, however, somehow appeared to be

rambling of a poorly prepared master of ceremonies.

Tom Riley was the most blatant in his disregard for the commemorative breakfast. Although he briefly mentioned



more of a press junket for the various politicians in attendance. The majority of those who spoke were very limited in the words they devoted to the subject of Dr. King or any relatable topic. Instead, the audience was bombarded with countless remarks about an upcoming gubernatorial election, unpassed pieces of legislation, mispronunciations of key names, and the

a piece of legislation regarding voluntary desegregation within the Lynn school system, he seemed to take up much time publicizing his upcoming campaign for the governorship. Of course, Mitt Romney added to this with an equally irrelevant speech glorifying his late father Governor George Romney of Michigan's contribution to the black community.

It should be noted, however, that his address seemed to divert from actually recognizing Dr. King or the impact of his character. Neither Riley's nor Romney's speeches actually reflected on Martin Luther King Jr., or even considered the economic or social problems that continue to afflict black communities and are overlooked by their offices.

Surprisingly, among the politicians, John Kerry was the most coherent and most considerate of Martin Luther King Jr. and the black community. Because Kerry had another four years to push his campaign, he was candid and blunt about his concerns for the social, economic and educational problems within the black community. In fact, he was more direct and unambiguous than he has ever been in his speeches. Although many of us would have rather seen this John Kerry projected before the election, his impassioned deliverance and focus was moving, and briefly reverted the attention to Dr. King.

Perhaps I have been too critical of the ceremony, and maybe my bewilderment is due to a lack of exposure to high-profile events. The evasive nature of many of the speakers, however, was utterly disrespectful; the negligence of several of the guests to even acknowledge Dr. King seemed so obviously deliberate. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for values and principles that we hold deeply each day, and his memory should be celebrated more for his progress, and the impact his progress continues to make on various communities.

FORUM

We're Not In Kansas Anymore

By THOMAS GRAZIANO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the aftermath of the tsunami tragedy, the global community answered the call for international aid with unprecedented alacrity. Nations that had never before banded together united behind an international front, their outpouring of sympathy bolstering the morale of suffering nations in the wake of the tragedy.

Not everyone in the world, however, was so grief-stricken.

The congregation of Reverend Fred Phelps's Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, applauded the tsunami as a God-sent miracle: in their eyes, the disaster was justified because of the thousands of Swedes who had perished while vacationing in Thailand or Sri Lanka. According to the church, these individuals had earned their deaths simply by being a part of a nation that harbors liberal views towards homosexuality. Sweden had begged for divine retribution.

The church, composed primarily of Phelps's kin, procured an infamous reputation in the 1990's with increasingly zealous religious demonstrations aimed against homosexuals. Armed with "AIDS Cures Fags" signs and a bullhorn, the group dropped in on the funerals of nearly every high-profile victim of the disease. Their "peak" came in the days following the vicious murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay Wyoming college student tortured and left to die in Laramie in 1998.

Following this most recent tragedy in Asia, Phelps and his parishioners were at it again, mass-producing pamphlets thanking God for the tsunami and glee-

**Thank God for the tsunamis - and for
5,000 dead Swedes!!!**

**God is laughing, mocking and taunting Swedes and
Sweden, even as they mourn & weep over their dead!**

*"I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear
cometh." Prov. 1:26.*

*"He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in
derision." Ps. 2:4.*

A FLYER DISTRIBUTED BY THE WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH.

fully noting that 20,000 potentially dead Swedes are analogous to 650,000 Americans. The Westboro Baptist website *godbatesfags.com* called for a monument to Swedish victims shaped as "two tsunami waves bearing down on two stick-figures simulating anal copulation, [with] the inscription at the bottom as follows: God Sent the Tsunamis that Destroyed Thousands of Wicked Swedes in Asia December, 2004."

Just what leads to such virulent language in the wake of an unfathomable disaster? And why was Sweden targeted—a nation of nine million in the Arctic circle, roughly the size of California, which has not fought a war in nearly two centuries, and which introduced to the world Volvo and Ikea? Why could the Topeka church not simply remain quiet for once?

The answer is most immediately found in the form of Åke Green. This summer, in a major setback to the marginal Swedish reactionary community, the Pentecostal pastor was sentenced to a month in jail under a law against incitement. Having described homosexuality as "abnormal, a horrible cancerous tumor in the body of society" in a 2003 sermon, he was found guilty of offending gays with his vitriol. Westboro Baptist's website includes a monument to the elderly pastor, far more reverential than its proposal for the Swedish memorial. The granite obelisk hails Green as "the first Christian martyr in Europe since the Spanish Inquisition of the world's Dark Ages." The irony of their relentless campaign to return this nation to the Dark Ages was clearly lost on the Kansas church.

The root cause of Westboro Baptist's sick response to the tragedy lies deeper than the jailing of one homophobic, however. To Phelps, the Swedish way of life, which does not shun homosexuality or even consider the "idea of it" taboo, is a terrifying prospect. In the eyes of his parishioners, any Swede who had been on vacation in Thailand was in fact lured there by a sick desire "to rape and sodomize little Thai boys and girls." Though it is common knowledge that the vast majority of tourists were traveling with family, to people like Phelps, facts are peripheral.

Sadly, religious zealots were not the only ones embarrassing their countrymen in the wake of the tragedy. For days, New York City's Hot 97 radio station ran an extremely offensive skit called the "Tsunami Song," featuring lyrics such as, "go find your mommy, I just saw her float by, a tree went through her head and now the children will be sold to child slavery." The hosts of the program have been suspended indefinitely and many companies have cancelled their advertising time on the radio station.

The aftermath of possibly the greatest natural catastrophe of our time should have been one free of such unneeded distractions. This disaster has brought out the best and it seems the worst in human beings. Sadly, some exploited the tragedy to try to advance their own twisted agendas. Trying to understand the illogical nature of men such as Phelps is ultimately as futile a task as trying to seek meaning from this disaster. The presence of such irrational hatred in the very Heartland of America, however, must be uprooted.

Summers' Storm

By JULIA ARNOUS, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

On January 17 of this year, Lawrence Summers suggested that "innate differences" may be accountable for the gap between men and women's achievements in the sciences and mathematics. The Harvard president's theory, one of those presented at a conference held by the National Bureau of Economic Research, caused a female biologist from MIT to walk out of the room. In the past weeks, frenzied reporting on Summers' supposed chauvinism has ensued, and countless letters have been sent to him from enraged colleagues, students and members of the general public. He has since been apologizing for what has been called a "lapse of judgment" with as much zeal as the reporters hounding him.

Whether Summers was correct or not, he should not have been subjected to such an outrageous barrage of criticism. He should be able instead to share his opinions freely without threats of discontinued support from alumni, especially because his remarks were made in an informal setting. After all, there is scientific evidence that what Summers proposed may be true. Studies have shown that men are more likely to excel in the mathematics and sciences because of their hormones and brain structures, whereas women tend to outperform men in areas of learning, such as languages. Though small, the difference is there and becomes more evident when the highest achievers

in these areas are compared.

The general public has an unfortunate tendency to jump on the media bandwagon, condemning even those who attempt to alleviate a problem. The issue of women's under-representation in the field of science and math will not be solved if those in authority—be they fellow university presidents or professors, journalists or activist group leaders—are afraid to identify the possible reasons for its occurrence. Summers was the only one "rude" enough to admit that genetics may be playing a role in this situation. He makes clear in his letter of apology, which is easily accessible on the Harvard website, that he did not have any intention of discouraging women from pursuing whatever careers they choose. Rather, he was present at the conference to express his concern regarding the noticeable deficiency in the number of female scientists working today.

If Summers committed a "lapse in judgment," it was after he stepped out of the conference room and apologized to the general public. He committed no crime, no mistake and had no reason to be "regretful." If he had made an inappropriate remark, he would have been expected to apologize for it. But he did not make any such remark. He merely sought to understand a societal problem. In the future, if women's positions in the academic community are to be advanced, one hopes that others are prepared to stand by whatever theories they choose to present.

Happy, Healthy and
100% Juiced

By MELISSA SAUNDERS, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In one of the best shifts in policy since the enforcement of the beloved "Strike Zone," two *Snapple 100% Juiced!* machines have recently surfaced in the Dining Hall. Boasting 100 percent juice and that famous "Made from the best stuff on earth" formula, these machines clearly represent a step in the right direction as families and schools around the nation strive to battle the pubescent bulge in the wake of the growing epidemic of obesity.

Most high school students may seem hostile to the implementation of healthy alternatives in the food/drink aspect of their lives, such as wheat germ extract and tofu. Boston Latin School students, however, don't seem to mind the *Snapple 100% Juiced!* machines. The machines have made a sudden entrance, but in no way have they impeded upon Gatorade, arguably the beverage of choice among blasé preps, perspiring jocks and others. Nevertheless, they have bright colors, offer a variety of flavors and, for a dollar (a dollar well spent), students and teachers can have one, consequently permitting the "getting" of "your Snap," preferentially "on" in a manner "like it's nobody's business!"

But excusing my commercial banter, there is a hidden ideology behind the appeal of the *Snapple 100% Juiced!* machines. As Jane Teenager is ambling down Adolescent Lane on the way to

Grownup Land, she doesn't want to be hassled with countless restrictions and unyielding "eat-your-vegetables" maxims from her parental units. She wants to have options, independence and free-will; and as the long-winding road down Adolescent Lane goes on, Jane will get thirsty. The freedom to make simple, healthy eating choices without feeling harried by the despots of nutrition will ultimately quench that thirst. *Snapple* itself represents youth: unfiltered, unmitigated, and 100 percent juice. It brings wholeness to anyone's lunch, adding the apt exclamation point to the dismal world of generically processed cafeteria food and brown-bagged lunches, all without deteriorating one's stomach lining or dignity as soda does.

Having the *Snapple 100% Juiced!* machines in the Dining Hall obviously won't obliterate the problem of obesity completely. For example, one might argue that students can still get a fix of the "carbonated crank" in the morning from Jimmy's truck, and they may still choose to drink it at home. But the machines do bring forth an idea that beneficial alternatives to soft drinks can be "cool." As I munch on my NutriGrain bar somberly, finishing my No Doubt exercise regimen, I look up in peculiar consolation. Catching my breath, I exhale easily, feeling arteries unblock. *Someone or something is looking down upon us all* (possibly Wendy the Snapple Lady) *sending those two divine machines*. I think, *and the world is better for it*.

It's the best feeling on earth.

Latin Basketball Falling Short

By **SAM AKIBA, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

More than halfway through the season, the Boston Latin boys' basketball team stands at a disappointing 9-8 record. Anyone who has seen the team play knows that when they perform to their potential they're better than a .500 team. They have not lost a game by more than five points, and their largest margin of victory was 26 over Concord-Carlisle. Yet Latin lets close game after close game slip away. For those who have followed this team, the 2004 season will be known as the year that could have been. They started as legitimate contenders for a Dual County League championship. However, Wolfpack's inability to hold leads or play 32 minutes of strong basketball has ended that aspiration. They have talent and role players, but for some reason or another, they are just unable to pull it together at the end of games. Whether it is a mental or physical thing, they consistently perform badly in the clutch.

They seemed poised to win their home opener to Bedford, but lost by one in the waning moments. The Wolfpack also held late leads against division rival Acton-Boxboro and in their second game with Bedford, but were unable to hold on. Over winter vacation they blew a 16-point halftime lead against Brookline High. Later, they lost by one to Hartford. The Wolfpack then barely held off Newton South, who climbed back after being down 20 at the half. Starting guard Charles Maneikis (I) hit a running jumper with three seconds left to give the Pack a 79-77 win. Another devastating defeat came on February 1 at English High School. Latin yielded a 13-point halftime lead and lost 84-86 to a weaker team. The Pack was

subject to atrocious inconsistent refereeing that bailed English out every time they dribbled into traffic, and in the end it was the same old story. The game put a very dark cloud over a game in which Nick Michel (I) scored his one-thousandth point. And yet again Latin was robbed by a bad call, a "travel," at the end of their game against Westford on February 3, and they lost a one point game to a team they

Starting center Nick Michel feels that "the team needs more intensity in practice and in games. We also need to have better in-game decision making."

The DCL is a very competitive league and with an 8-4 division record, a DCL championship is pretty much out of sight. The biggest game left on the schedule is Tuesday, February 8 at Acton-Boxboro. Latin needs to win that

enough to beat most teams on their schedule. Guard Patrick Poulin (II) is capable of lighting it up on any given night. Sean Martin (I) continues to risk life and limb on the court, earning his share of Tommy Points this season. Charles Maneikis (I), Greg Maneikis (III) and Mike Mitchell (I) provide a solid trio at point guard, and Nick Michel and Marc Tangvik (I) have consistently added to the teams scoring.

Matt Gittens (I) can be a spark plug off the bench with his defensive hustle and dunking attempts. Also, forward Reggie Alouidar (I) can provide a three-point threat. That is why the Wolfpack's losses are so mystifying: despite their talent, the team continues to suffer close losses.

Although this team has not yet lived up to expectation, there are some positive signs. Compared to the four-win teams of several years ago, Latin Varsity basketball has made tremendous improvements. Having a team that is not satisfied with a .500 record is a complete change from the days when a four- or five-win season was anticipated. These guys are not going to go out without a fight. Coming down the stretch, Latin is going to have to find a way to come up big and maintain a decent division record. Every game from here on out is

a must-win. They need all the support the Boston Latin community can muster, so attend the games, and give these guys any advantage you can to help them win these barnburners. If they can overcome these mishaps and play the way we predicted they would, then they can prove they are better than a .500 team.



BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

should have beat.

The fact that Latin has lost such close games is frustrating to players and fans. It seems that they choose one-half of every game to play well, and the other half to play poorly. More athletic but less skilled teams have also given Latin trouble. The Pack has had problems boxing teams out, and they give their opponents extra opportunities. The defense has been lacking as well this year, as Latin has allowed other teams to come back after they go ahead. They are capable of catching fire and emerging from this funk, but they are going to have to fill in their holes first. They would have to win out to match last season's record 13-8. The players know what is expected of them, and that significant improvement is needed.

game to restore their respectability in the league. The Wolfpack are a shoe-in to make the M.I.A.A. tournament, needing only 11 wins to earn a spot. But it is likely they will earn a low seed and have to battle tough opponents on the road. If the Pack cannot pull it together, don't expect much past an early round exit. However, Charles Maneikis remains optimistic, saying, "I look forward to facing Acton in an early round. I know we can beat them this time."

The fact is that this team does have the tools to succeed. They are talented



BY BURT CARTER (I)

(Shut) Out But Not Down

By **THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II**
SPORTS EDITOR

The tale of sports winds its way through generations, as the old teach the young. This is especially prevalent in high school sports where the learning curve is steep, with only a couple of years to get it. The story of the 2004-2005 Boston Latin School girls' basketball team is no exception. The roster is made up of four seniors, nine juniors, one sophomore and one freshman. The light is dimming for the seniors who are moving on, but through their leadership, the younger members are gaining valuable knowledge. They hope to bring the team out of the rebuilding phase and mold them into contenders.

The girls are lead by captains Melissa Gilmore (I), the assist special-

ist, Caroline Sullivan (I), the defensive expert, and Cassie Kull (II), a force under the basket. In addition to the captains, the senior presence is rounded off by tenacious Felicia Waldron (I) and Aquila Browne (I). This veteran crew is ensuring that the lessons taught by head coach Mr. Benny Myers are well-received by younger members of the team, raising the combined wisdom and skill of everyone.

Unfortunately, the advancement of the team this year has been hampered by injuries to several key players. Lisa Palladino (II) and Julia Harney (III) are both inactive due to ankle injuries. Meghan O'Donnell (II), just off the bench from an ankle injury, is already contributing on the court and will hopefully start a trend for the others. A major loss for the team is that of starting point guard Maura Donnelly (II) who is out for the season

due to illness.

Although the season has provided little growth to the win column, it is far from a disaster. The girls have fun doing 1-2 Step dance on pre-game warm-ups. The creation of a song by Browne based on the Mr. Benny Myers experience makes it even more fun. It also helps that the girls are very close off the court. In the words of Sullivan, "Most of us have been playing together since seventh grade or even earlier, so we know each other pretty well."

The welcoming atmosphere of the team allows for a positive attitude, despite some tough losses. One of the most difficult moments the team had to go through was their loss to Newton-South, a weaker team. However, they also banded together against Acton-Boxboro,

and despite falling short, they put in more than a winning effort. In Sullivan's eyes, it was the best moment of the season. "We were hustling and playing hard right up until the end of the game. They were a better team, but every person on our team pitched in to give them everything we had."

The girls, while not the best in the league, can currently compete and hold their own. They have two members who are six feet tall and can make plays in the paint. They are a force on post plays, and the team is effective at running the fast break. With these current skills and playing time, plus the valuable leadership the younger girls have, the future holds great hope. "[The girls] will have had the experience of playing together from this year, and they will work even better as a team," says Sullivan.

Sports Spotlight

Steve Armandt



BY KATHERINE RAMEY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Steve "The Animal" Armandt. Why the "animal"? His huge muscles? Certainly not. His uncontrollable attitude? Again, definitely not. As any member of the Boston Latin School community can affirm, Steve has achieved this legendary nickname through straight-out, no-holds-barred, constant hard work. He has been a part of the football, tennis, track and wrestling teams. He played tennis and was a star receiver on the freshman football team, but soon stopped to focus on his winter sport: wrestling. Steve has succeeded in one of the toughest sports at the school, racking up 75 wins in wrestling career. As a tri-captain this year, he took second place at the Canton Tournament, and third at the North Quincy Invitational. Not many can boast such impressive numbers, nor such impressive spandex. The outdoor track team was also graced with Steve's talent last spring, and he qualified for states in the 4 x 100-meter race.

Steve is also a beast when it comes to other extra-curricular activities. He has excelled in his role as vice-president of the senior class, after he lured us all into voting for him with a gripping speech. This "Son of a Preacher-Man" also volunteers at his local church. Senior Molly Coyne accurately pinpoints Steve's identity: "Not only is he an animal, but he's Jesus as well." Even with Steve's myriad of sports and responsibilities as Jesus, he still has time to have an active social life, beginning with his role as chess team captain in the eighth grade. He is also so talented on the Twister board, no one can contest his claim to the title "The Animal." Nick Michel (I) agrees that Steve is one of the best players he has ever seen and surely has the potential for international play.

Steve's accomplishments have all prepared him for one activity: only in this is Steve actually forced to put on his animal gear – or to be more specific – costume. Steve's role as Wolfie, our lovable team mascot, outshines anything he has ever done in high school, or in life. Steve has always been there to support the team. Wolfie himself describes the job: "Well, it's hard work. Everyday you gotta go out there. You don't know how the crowd will react. Anything could happen." An eternity of training on the wrestling mat could never prepare Steve for the rigor of being Wolfie, something he describes as "constant wear and tear on the mind and body." When I asked Steve what he did to prepare for this challenge, he responded, "Oreos. I ate a lot of them. Keeps your energy up. I saw most of the games last year, too, and spent months in the weight room until my career of Wolfie came to an apex. The roar of the crowd, there's nothing like it." Steve's hours of perfecting dance moves and making T-shirts paid off. He lifts the morale of the team and the fans. Some may think it a stretch, but the success of the football team depends heartily on the efforts of the Lone Wolf. All in all, we can say that it's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the animal in Steve.

SPORTS

Boys On Track For Future

BY RONALD BOWER, II
STAFF WRITER

This season has been sub-par for the Boston Latin School's boys' track team. It can be said that they are not running over their opponents. In the Dual County League, their record is 0-8, while they are 2-0 versus City League challengers. Every day, the boys' and girls' track teams can be found on all the school floors trying to get that extra edge for their upcoming meet. After the few days they have each week to practice they will go to the Reggie Lewis Center where they will attempt to race past their current foe.

Leading the way for the Wolfpack is the 4x200 meter relay. Mike LiPuma (I), Jin Bin Liu (I), Alan Mui (III), and Duc Doan (III) have already helped the event qualify for the State Coaches Invitational, Class A Championship, and the State Tournament. Clocking in at a stunning one minute 39.4 seconds in one of the 4x200 races is one of the boys' best events.

One of Boston Latin's better

events is the 4x400 meter relay team consisting of team captains Arkadiusz Turolski (I) and Robert Deegan (II), as well Shawn Le (III) and Mike LiPuma (I). The 4x400 has an average time of three minutes 50 seconds matches up well with other teams in the DCL. Despite this record, the team failed to qualify for this year's State Coaches Invitational, missing the necessary time by three tenths of a second. However, the 4x400 definitely has potential for the DCL Championships on February 12.

"Though our record is bad," says alumna and Assistant Distance Coach Kerry Sullivan (Class of 2004), "times are much better than years past." In last year's DCL Championship, boys' track only received one point. This year, however, they have the potential to go as high as 25! Sullivan continued to say: "Members of this year's team are really stepping up and showing the new blood what track is all about." Though he still has years ahead of him, Sean Rabe (III) has taken his opportunity on the team and ran with it.

There is a young pool of athletes

entering this season with high hopes of being champs in coming years. Among these runners are prospective Michael Schwartz (IV), Shawn Le, Alan Mui, Sean Rabe, and Andrew Klein (III).

In a mixed blessing for boys' track, they have just one senior distance runner. Unfortunately, Captain Arkadiusz Turolski, who has bestowed the leadership that has kept the team moving through the past few years, will be leaving after this season. He is probably their best distance runner and his absence will be a dent, to say the least, in next year's lineup. In his fifth season on the team, Turolski is hoping that his time in the one-mile will be good enough to put him into the Class A Tournament.

Boys' track is only losing five seniors and the future appears promising. It is a steep hill to climb but with the continued efforts of Ms. Denise Pritchard and her staff, the team should be considered a potential threat in no time.

Girls' Indoor Track Going Swiftly

BY LIZ TRAN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The joyful year of 2004 has passed and now it's 2005. Too bad winter break couldn't have lasted longer. I bet most of you traveled out of state to visit relatives or just to get away from the New England weather. Well, while you were relaxing and just being plain lazy, the girls' indoor track team had to practice during vacation. Yes, they did practice amid the tough winter chills. It shows how much hard work and dedication the girls have for this sport.

The two most common places you can find track team members are either in the hallway or on the way to the Reggie Lewis Center, where their meets are also held, despite snow, sleet or rain.

The team is one of the largest in the school and it keeps growing every year. You might think, "Oh it's just running. It's nothing." Don't be fooled, track is a tough sport in which to compete. Under the coaching of Ms. Denise Pritchard, Ms. Taylor and Mr. McCollum, it is no wonder that many individuals on the team are successful.

At their recent meets, a few girls stood out, some of whom are state qualifiers. For the first time in awhile, the 4x4 relay team has qualified. One of the members is Caroline O'Loughlin (III), who has also qualified in several other events such as the 1,000-meter, two-mile and 600-meter. Others who have made it are Michelle Finley (II) in the 300-meter and Alison Connelly (II) in the 600-meter. Besides the state

qualifiers, Latin has some upcoming talent that people should watch out for. Christine Kelly (IV) and Tonia Nee (IV) seem to have a chance at qualifying and winning some individual races in the near future.

There are mostly statewide meets left. Some of those are State Coaches' Relays, Coaches Elite/Coaches Invitational, Class A Championship (States), All States and New Englands. You can catch all of them at the Reggie Lewis Center.

The girls' track team is definitely successful at their meets, but there are things they need to improve on. As for the rest of the season, their goals are probably the same as any other sports team in our school: to win, to improve and to just have fun with the sport.

Girls' Hockey Unstoppable

BY COURTNEY FERGUSON, I
STAFF WRITER

The highly renowned and most competitive team at Boston Latin School has again jumped on the ice for another great season. After performing superbly for the past few seasons, the girls are ready to win another state title. So far, this run to the top is unfolding in the team's favor. The girls are prepared to take on any team who dares to step onto the ice.

Old veterans and young sprouting talent has pushed this team to rank second in the state. Captains Catherine Foley (I), Katie Balaconis (I), and Amy Kotowski (II) are pushing their already hard-working teammates to their limits. They expect the utmost effort and participation from everyone. Every space on this team is more than adequately filled with a girl who has talent. Four Latin girls – Kathleen Roche (IV), Catherine Foley, Samantha Morrissey (II), and Amy Kotowski – make up

the top five point leaders in their league. In addition to that remarkable feat, Kathleen Roche is in the top five for state with 39 goals to her name. Other notable players on the offense include, forwards Jill Mahoney (II), Colleen Donovan (III), Stefani McGrath (VI), and Kaighla Ridge (VI). The team has been strengthening and critiquing both

and Elizabeth Balaconis provide their seemingly flawless goalie with backup on the defensive front.

Having won 11 out of 13 games, the girls are soaring with delight. They hold the leading record in the league. The team successfully toppled some of their most difficult opponents, beating Westford Academy easily four to one. They skated circles around Fontbonne Academy scoring seven goals. On February 22 at Northeastern University, these Latin girls will face their greatest challenge, playing against Woburn who is now, but probably not for long, ranked number one in the state of Massachusetts. The team hopes to dominate, especially since it is the last home game for the seniors.

Because of the experience, skills, and love for the game that all the girls share, a state championship seems inevitable. Having already qualified for the M1AA tournament, they are in a great position to win the state title and bring pride to the Boston Latin Community.

Girls Remaining Schedule

SATURDAY 2/12 @ANDOVER @Philips 6:00
THURSDAY 2/17 FONTBONNE @ S.B. 3:30
SATURDAY 2/19 WESTFORD ACADEMY @ N.U. 12:15
TUESDAY 2/22 WOBURN @ N.U. 10:15 AM
THURSDAY 2/24 @BARNSTABLE @ Hyannis 11:45 AM

their offense as well as their defense. The defense is led by Siobhan Elvin (VI) in the goal. At such a young age, she is literally a brick wall in front of the net. She is the top ranked goalie in the league and has several shutouts. Moreover, she is able to cut off her opponents at two goals a game if she even lets the puck slide by her. Ann Marie Elvin (IV), Madison Gilmore (IV), and sisters Katie

SPORTS

Skating To Success

BY CAROLINE SULLIVAN, I
STAFF WRITER

With the retirement of long-time boys' hockey coach Dave Coleman last season, the fate of the boys' hockey team seemed uncertain. Under the leadership of first-year head coach Frank Woods, however, Captain Sean O'Brien (I) and assistant captain Paul Hynes (I), the boys have started the season off well, with an impressive 7-1-4 record in the tough Dual County League/Merrimack Valley Conference. They also are ranked fifth in the state.

The season started at home for the Wolfpack against a DCL opponent, Bedford. The boys swiftly shut down the Buccaneers and gained a victory. Throughout the season, Tommy DeRosa (II) and Jimmy Ennis (II) have provided the Wolfpack with ample offense.

Next, the boys traveled to Haverhill where the hard-played game ended in a tie. The Wolfpack then battled in the Saugus Tournament that took place a few days after Christmas.

The boys played Lynnfield and top-ranked Saugus, and the outstanding defense led by O'Brien and Tommy Re-

gan (III) kept both games in a tie. The Wolfpack went on to beat Walpole handily, with the offensive attack led by Tim Sharek (II). The next game came against Westford. Not only did the boys lose their first and only game by a score of 6-3, but



BY LEAH SKAHEN, I

they also lost assistant captain Hynes, an inspirational leader to the team, to a back injury. However, the boys bounced back to win their next two games, beating both Tewksbury and Concord-Carlisle.

On January 15, the boys squared off against a tough Andover team. The game was largely a defensive battle, but the Wolfpack struck first when Nick Bickerton (II), a player who has become a potent offensive force for the team, scored with six minutes and 25 seconds left in the first period. The Andover guys scored quickly in the second period, but Ennis retaliated shortly after with a goal of his own. Andover evened up the score 47 seconds into the third period.

From that point forward, the ferocious defense and goal keeping by John Bruno (I) held off the strong Andover team. The boys played well, and the game ended in a tie.

The next game came against Methuen. The boys played well and won, improving their record. The boys look forward to their upcoming games. Captain O'Brien says, "We have high expectations for the rest of the season and are honestly looking to advance far into the post-season and make a run at the state title. I feel we have the depth to do so." The boys will need to stay focused for the rest of the season. If they continue their aggressive and fierce style of play, however, then they will certainly wreak havoc in the state tournament.

Boys Swim In Promising Waters

BY BO SHANG, II
STAFF WRITER

In just his second year coaching the Boston Latin School boys' swimming team, Coach Charlie Peterson has taken this team to a whole new level. Peterson has the up-and-coming team, previously thought of as the doormat of the competitive and cutthroat Dual County League, confident and hovering around a .500 mark. This is a remarkable feat considering the majority of swimmers are in the ninth or younger, and the team is lacking a core group of juniors and sophomores. The team chemistry is great and the confidence level is through the roof.

Compared to the past eight years, this year's team is probably the best in terms of talent, participation and cooperation. Coach Peterson even considered making cuts this year due to the immense interest in the Latin School boys' swimming program, something that has not been done in quite a while.

The recent success has much to do with the senior leadership of captains Jeff Hull (I) and Stewart Wing (I). You can talk about Boston Latin sport stars all you want, but Hull is in the top of the crop because he tries to get his teammates involved. He is a true MVP. That's a huge, huge factor for them. He is currently a favorite to win in the three major meets this

season: the DCL Championships, North Sectionals and the Division I State Championships in diving. Wing, the sprinter, is close to making the time trials for the 50 and 100-yard freestyles. Also, young talent David Yazbeck (V) qualified for the breaststroke events. Yazbeck does well in all four strokes but excels in breaststroke. He is also probably the best overall swimmer, having set the team record for the



BY LEAH SKAHEN, I

individual medley, an event that involves all four strokes. Being only in the eighth grade, he still has three years to improve and to set records previously thought unreachable at Boston Latin. Other accomplished swimmers include Jeff Bausemer (I), James Mealey (II), Preston Bayes (I) and Peter Gels (IV).

The team's improvements can be visibly seen in their meet with Concord-Carlisle. Last year, they edged out

Concord-Carlisle in the final event. This year, they blew them out of the water from the beginning. Despite just a 3-4 record, mostly due to their difficult schedule in a competitive league, improvements in record times from two years ago can be seen in just about every major category. Wing was the first to set a new record this year, shaving 0.23 seconds off his own 50-yard freestyle record set last year.

Despite a slow 1-3 start, the team has good momentum going into the second half of the season, with wins over Concord Carlisle and Catholic Memorial going 2-1 over the stretch. Hull is confident that the team will prevail.

While the team will be hurt significantly when the seniors graduate this year, the younger swimmers are expected to fill the gaping holes the seniors will leave. Although captains for next season have not yet been announced, James Mealey (II) and Kevin Morrison (II) are expected to lead the team. Captain Jeff Hull has high hopes for the swim team in the future, predicting that in two years, the team will be better than ever. These boys, including all the sixies and fivesies, practice at the Dorchester Murphy School from 3 to 5:30 p.m. every day, swimming around 2,000 yards per day. Their dedication gives us high hopes for the team in the years to come.

Sports Spotlight
Melissa Gilmore

BY CAROLINE SULLIVAN, I
STAFF WRITER

If you're watching a girls' basketball game, there is one player that you are bound to notice: Melissa Gilmore. Whether she's draining threes, playing tenacious defense, or diving on the floor for a loose ball, Melissa is one of the best players on the court. She always hustles, and whether she's diving, playing basketball or rowing for the crew team, Melissa never fails to give 110 percent.

In the fall, Melissa dives for the Latin School swimming and diving team. She began in the eighth grade, completely new to the sport. Although she had some previous experience in gymnastics, she had never tried jumping off a diving board or those acrobatic moyses in the air. Melissa learned quickly, however, and soon became a prominent diver. She was dedicated to the sport, and on Sundays during the summer, would go to Boston Area Diving to practice and learn new dives. Although Melissa had never dived before, she was determined to succeed, and she certainly did.

Starting the Monday after Thanksgiving break, Melissa made the transition from the diving board to the basketball court. Melissa is one of the Varsity girls captains. She began playing basketball in the fourth grade at the West Roxbury Community Center. In seventh grade, she joined the Parkway Travel Team. This was the first time I had ever played on a team with Melissa, and we have been playing together ever since.

Although Melissa was one of the smallest players, she was always the most aggressive. Her uncanny drive was noticed by the coaches, and in the eighth grade, she made the Junior Varsity team. Melissa was a star, and in the tenth grade, she made the Varsity team. Melissa's greatest strength as a basketball player is her hustle. She never gives up on a play, and she is always all over the court trying to stop a drive to the hoop or cause a turnover. In fact, when we were at basketball camp together two years ago, she won the camp hustle award. In the tenth grade, Melissa decided once again to try a new sport: crew. She had never rowed before, but she was determined to learn how. At the novice level, Melissa advanced rapidly. She learned the techniques of rowing, and last year, moved up to Varsity. At the Mass Public High School Regatta, a prestigious race, Melissa's boat earned a medal. Crew captain Lindy McGrail (I) says, "Melissa's athleticism and great spirit have been a huge asset to the crew team. Melissa is an extremely dedicated and talented athlete on all three of her varsity teams."

Not only does Melissa find the time for three varsity sports, but she is also an active member in her church community. She has been a member of the St. Theresa's Catholic Youth Organization since the ninth grade, and has been a member of the St. Theresa's Peer Ministry group since the eleventh grade. Yet for the past eight years she has found the time to do Irish step dancing. Melissa is a great person, a wonderful friend and undeniably one of the best female athletes at Boston Latin.

SPORTS

Boston College Soaring to New Heights

By THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
SPORTS EDITOR

Last season, the Eagles were rolling when they finished the season at a respectable 24-11. They guaranteed themselves a No. 6 seed in the tournament and managed to defeat Utah 58-51 in the first round. But they fell to Georgia Tech in the second round while the Yellow Jackets pushed their way to the national championship game before falling to UConn.

The off-season had mixed results. The team lost a valuable guard in Troy Bell, but many new players elevated their games to earn starting roles on the team. Junior Craig Smith fine-tuned his skills, while Jared Dudley has become one of the new prime-time sensations in college basketball. The team came together nicely for Head Coach Al Skinner, who now has the team coasting with an undefeated record and also ranked fifth in the country.

The 2004-2005 Eagles are off to the best start in the team's history and

their best record since 1969. They are hoping the streak carries them through the Big East tournament, earning them a high seed in the NCAA tournament this March. BC has a history of falling short when crunch time comes and hasn't made it out of the second round since 1994. But this year's team has shown itself resilient in the closing moments of games. Of their many wins, one came in overtime, while another was sealed in double overtime. Recently, they edged Villanova, rank No. 24, with a 67-66 as BC scored the last seven points of the game; they also squeaked past Providence 78-75. The Eagles are hoping that their strength at the end of games will carry over to the post-season tournaments and give the school a chance at its first national championship.

The season has left challenges for the Eagles, who have remaining games versus No. 8 ranked Syracuse, No. 16 ranked Pittsburgh and Villanova, all in their division. The team is confident, however, and doesn't regard the season



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as a fluke. They have worked hard to get to where they are and don't see losing as an option. As explained by Center Nate Doornekamp to the Associated Press, "One loss puts us right into the pack of the Big East and it puts us right into the pack nationally. There's some very good teams with one loss."

BC is considered a contender every year, but to be undefeated at the beginning of February comes as a welcomed surprise. College basketball is a sport that changes quickly and to be one of the top teams is a great accomplishment for the coaches and players. On a team in which there is no superstar, but no one lagging behind either, BC is the perfect example for every Division I school trying to compete with the big guns of North Carolina, Kansas, Illinois and others.

BC never fails to disappoint, especially this year, and it has Chestnut Hill rocking. On top of the men's basketball team, the Lady Eagles are rank No. 15 in female college basketball, and the Men's Hockey Team is ranked first. As BC prepares for its transfer to the Atlantic Coast Conference next year, the excellent seasons of the big sports like football and basketball should make the transition a little less painful and put BC permanently on the college sports map.

Super Bowl XXXIX Interactive

By SAM AKIBA, I
SPORTS EDITOR

Dear reader,

Due to the "unfortunate" event of a January vacation, the *Argo* Sports Section has been caught in a dilemma. We must submit all articles by Friday. So it would be pointless to write a Super Bowl XXXIX preview, nor can we print a Super Bowl recap. Therefore, we decided to give you the chance to write your own Super Bowl article, we'll provide the foundation and you can fill in the blanks. Hopefully you paid attention and can complete a well-written, factually-correct article.

Super Bowl XXXIX was a(n) _____ (adjective) contest between the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles. The Pats _____ (past tense verb) the Eagles. The game started out

_____ (adjective) and then became a(n) _____ (adjective) match in the second half, but in the end the _____ (team name) proved to be the victor. It was a team effort as _____, _____, and _____ (players' names) all had solid games. Although _____ (Super Bowl MVP) stood out, winning the Super Bowl MVP honors, most were _____ (past participle) by the fact that Terrell Owens _____ (played/didn't play) in the game. After all his talk about being "spiritually healed," he _____ (past tense verb) in Super Bowl XXXIX. The play of the game came in the _____ (ordinal number) quarter when _____ (player's name) put the nail in the coffin with a _____ (the big play). It was a(n) _____ (adjective) victory for the _____ (team name) as they went on to win by _____ (number)

points. All of the NFL analysts proved to be _____ (adjective) in their prediction of the game's result. There was euphoria on the field as the _____ (team name) won their _____ (ordinal number) Super Bowl championship in _____ (number) years. Another aspect of Super Bowl XXXIX was the _____ (adjective) job done by the refs as they called a(n) _____ (adjective) game that had a(n) _____ (adjective) effect on the final result. Here in Boston the fans _____ (past tense verb) throughout the night, while in Philadelphia the Eagle's faithful _____ (past tense verb). Once again, the



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big companies spent millions of dollars on ads and the _____ (adjective) commercials were produced by _____ (company name). So after all the hype, media over-dramatization, and the painful two-week wait, Super Bowl XXXIX was a(n) _____ (adjective) contest, and in New England, the fans are _____ (participle) with the final score.

The Sub-Par Celtics Still In First

By JOSEPH BRAVOCO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2004-2005 Boston Celtics are anything but the powerhouse they once were. Unvarying mediocrity and a lack of team play have become commonplace in describing this club. But who would have expected them to be such an uninspiring basketball team? Their pre-season was well spent acquiring a superstar in Gary Payton and drafting a promising rookie, Al Jefferson. Their coaching spot was nicely filled when ex-Magic coach Doc Rivers came to town. They had potential and a very well-suited starting five. They had an experienced coach and entered the year knowing that the Atlantic Conference was one of the weakest in the NBA. Now Celtic fans find themselves asking questions like, "What happened to the old Boston Celtics? Will these Celtics ever get back to the success they had only a few years back, under Co-Captains Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker? Was Antoine "Downtown" Walker a key component of this team?" No one has definite answers, but what we do know is this. These Greens are not the same.

The month of January has highlighted the mediocrity of the Boston Celtics. During this month, they have gone 5-4, with their only reputable win



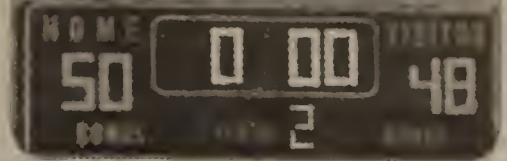
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coming against the Bulls in a 92-83 victory back on Wednesday at the FleetCenter. An outstanding highlight of this game was who dominated the stat board. As expected, Paul Pierce had the most points, rebounds and assists. While this attests to the superbeing that Paul Pierce has become, it is also an example of the one-man team of the Celts. For this team,

to establish itself as a serious contender, there needs to be a complete restructuring of team strategy. They need to be less dependent on Pierce's ability to score, and to establish a precise system of swing-pass-and-shoot basketball. Transition basketball can be a key weapon for the Celtics, since they have one of the most agile starting fives in the entire league.

One player will win you games, no doubt. But when it comes down to crunch time like the playoffs, other players need to step up and help out Pierce. With the double team, he fails to play his best, and this has been a major pitfall for the Green in the post-season.

Nevertheless, this column of negativity does contain a bright spot: the Celtics are first in their division. For that, they deserve immense credit. They have played with some semblance of consistency, although they are under .500. A great relief for the Celtics is the mere fact that they don't have to be a great basketball team; they only have to be competent. This year, as Danny Ainge has repeatedly outlined in his past year's agenda, is not a restructuring year but a "testing" year. If the Celtics can make it to the playoffs as far as the eighth seed, they can consider their season a success. Why? Despite their skilled coach, they do not have the players. Red Auerbach was the greatest coach ever in NBA history, and he did that while overlooking some of the greatest to ever play the game. Doc Rivers does not have that luxury. As long as the Celtics run that court with a starting five that would rather rank higher in personal statistics than in conference standings, they will be swept from the first round of the playoffs. If they even make it.



Teacher Schism Over Hiring: *Is the administration right to push for open posting?*

By **JULIA ARNOUS, III**
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

At a special faculty meeting held last month, Boston Latin School's hiring process was called into question. Dr. Gerald Neary and others suggested that those present vote on whether or not to have "open posting" of positions at Boston Latin. The proposal led to heated discussion and strong divisions among Latin school faculty. The meeting was called at the last minute, and not all teachers were present. Those who were decided that Dr. Neary's proposal should be put in writing. Since that meeting there has not been another vote, supposedly on account of the recent snowdays. Whether the issue is dropped or pursued by the administration will affect every member of the Latin School community.

In the current hiring system, under union rules, job openings are first posted internally; application is open only to teachers working within the Boston Public Schools. If no BPS teacher is hired to fill the opening, others are given the chance to apply in August, too late for many teachers anxious to find September employment. Ms. Wendy Holm is somewhat disconcerted by the situation. "Some suburban schools try to have their hiring done by the end of the school year, so I'm sure that the Boston Public School system misses out on some opportunities because of that."

In order to alleviate this problem,

some favor "open posting," where teachers from outside BPS would be able to apply as soon as positions become available. Under Boston Teachers' Union rules, however, teachers at individual schools must vote in order to open the application process, which Boston Latin has thus far not done.

believes that teachers should be more loyal to their vocation itself than to its union. He speaks of the BTU as "a business like any other. In seeking to hold on to its privileged position [as the sole teachers' union, it] goes too far."

Ms. Sandra Stuppard, on the other

issue before it was brought to teachers and that union members were not given descriptions of the jobs Dr. Neary proposed openly posting.

Those in favor of an open application process argue that talented educators and administrators are not given the chance to apply for positions, and that Latin

School students are suffering for it. As Ms. Holm says, "I think that there are a couple of dates during the summer when job openings are publicized on the Internet for BPS, but the earlier those openings are available, the more likely you are to get a wider range of people applying." The best applicant should get the job, they say, not the applicant who has been in the BPS for 30 years and deserves some perks. Many of the most popular teachers at BLS have been hired from school districts outside of Boston over BPS veterans. Among them are Ms. Meredith Elliott, Ms. Susan Filipi, Dr. Neary, Ms.

Judi Freeman, Ms. Ana Gomez and Ms. Catherine Arnold, who are all in the History Department.

Others fear hard-fought gains won by the BTU in contract negotiations are in jeopardy. Ms. Arnold says that "people are nervous." Many BLS teachers are grateful for the advocacy and protection the union has extended to them over the years, as well as its relentless advocacy for their rights. Without the union, teachers could be demanded to work overtime without pay, or even fired for issues unrelated to competency.



DIFFERING OPINIONS ON TEACHER HIRING: DR. COHEE AND MS. STUPPARD

In the past the administration has resorted to withholding posting jobs until August in order to attract what they feel is a more qualified applicant pool from outside the system.

The contentiousness among the faculty reflects a broader divide among those who are staunch supporters of the union and those who believe that the union has too much influence on teachers. Dr. Peter Cohee, head of the Classics Department, has spoken out on the issue in the past. He speaks of "a hierarchy of loyalties," and

hand, expresses disappointment in what she perceives as the union's negative reputation. "The unfortunate thing is that often when it comes to staffing, the union is perceived as wanting to keep the jobs of union members, but the ultimate concern is the needs of the school community," she says. In a memo to the faculty, the teacher representatives of the union at Boston Latin School claim that "the process outlined in our contract has been flagrantly disregarded." Ms. Stuppard explained that the School Site Council did not vote on the

The Weather Outside Is Frightful

By **AARON SUNSTEIN, I**
NEWS EDITOR

As this issue of the *Argo* goes to press, Boston is facing yet more snowfall, though the total for Friday, March 11 to Saturday, March 12 is expected to be only three to six inches. This latest storm is only another in one of the snowiest winters on record in New England—a winter that has left many school systems officials scratching their heads, wondering how to make up so many snow days.

Around 80 inches of snow have fallen in Boston this winter, almost twice the average of 39 inches. Boston Public Schools have already lost five days because

of snow-related closings. Luckily, since five days of cancellations are allotted in the calendar, there is no truth in rumors that students will be forced to attend school on Saturdays or during April vacation. As of now, the school year will simply continue until June 30. Because of strict stipulations in the Boston Teachers' Union contract, a school year cannot extend beyond June.

At Boston Latin School, Assistant Head Master Malcolm Flynn said that the last time this many school days were cancelled in 1978, the school lengthened each day by 10 or 15 minutes, though this would be more difficult now because of lunch schedules. He indicated that an-

other option would be to eliminate the half days on June 29 and June 30, making them into full days. It is unclear how the cancellations will affect Boston Latin seniors. According to Mr. Flynn, it is most likely that nothing will change because the graduation date cannot be changed.

An additional snow day could force districts across the state to consider more drastic actions such as scheduling school on Bunker Hill Day (June 17), shortening April vacation or opening schools on Saturdays. Education commissioner of the state David Driscoll, however, might be able to waive the requirement that

SNOW DAYS

continued on page 2 »

Global News Tidbits

» Boston Public Schools Superintendent Thomas Payzant was spotted February 16, 2005 driving around Boston Latin School five times in a silver VW Beetle. (Argo)

» On March 8, the Boston Latin School Mock Trial team won a competition that will allow it, along with 15 other

schools, to participate in the state finals. (Argo)

» The anonymous grey-haired, grey-suited man seen walking on the first and second floor has recently been identified to be Mr. Thomas Giancrisitano, the interim head of the History Department, who will continue in this position until the end of the school year. (Argo)

» Cuddle Bug, an orange tabby from

Inkom, Idaho, went for a 10-mile ride last week. His owner Torri Hutchinson drove for failed to notice Cuddle Bug until another driver flagged her down. (AP)

» In Fostoria, Ohio, robbers stole a large safe from the town's Bureau of Concern, a program that aids the poor. But the safe was empty, because town officials wanted to get rid of it anyway and had not done so: it had simply been too heavy to move. (AP)



In Memoriam Claire O'Connor

Claire O'Connor was a beloved secretary at Boston Latin School for many years. She passed away Tuesday, March 8 after a bout with cancer.

If your club has had any recent successes or special achievements, let us know. E-mail blsargo@gmail.com with your club's name, a description, and your name and homeroom—we'll consider it for a tidbit!

NEWS

Scant Notice for Church Trouble

BY BARRY TOMASINI, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As news of the pope's ever declining health makes world headlines, local religious issues such as the continuation of parish closures by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston have been largely ignored. Some 50 churches have been closed already, and 30 more are expected to follow in the next several months. Some churches have held round-the-clock vigils in efforts to remain open. These include St. Albert the Great in Weymouth, St. Anselm in Sudbury, St. Francis Cabrini in Scituate and St. Bernard in West Newton. At Sacred Heart Parish in South Natick, their pastor had parishioners Leo Ryan and Anne Green arrested for occupying their church after its official closing. Parish closings have continued apace since this paper last reported in October, although the archdiocese has granted some reprieves, including a delay to the closing of St. Mary of the Angels in Roxbury, a parish featured in Issue I.

After his earlier refusal to reconsider parish closings, Archbishop O'Malley asked prominent area Catholics to form a committee to be headed by Sister Janet Eisner, the president of Emmanuel College. The committee is to examine and make recommendations on the "re-configuration" process, and has been in large part responsible for the extensions and cancellations in parish closings that were issued by the archdiocese in recent months.

Not all of the churches that fought closings found recourse in the archdi-

ocese; some have appealed to the Vatican. The first replies from the Vatican were expected to arrive sometime mid-February, but the Vatican has granted itself a three month extension. Many experts in canon law seem to believe that the appeals will come back in favor of the archdiocese, which could give the archdiocese more leverage in enforcing parish closures. After settling sex-abuse lawsuits, dioceses of such cities as Tucson, Arizona, Portland, Oregon, and Los Angeles, California are in or dangerously close to bankruptcy. The only thing that is keeping them from immediate liquidation is their claim that they do not own the churches—that the buildings themselves are owned by the people, who have simply entrusted the buildings to the care of the archdiocese. Otherwise, banks could begin to foreclose on church property.

If the Vatican rules that churches are owned by the people as some dioceses have argued, churches will in effect be impervious to foreclosure. Such a ruling would also have the effect of hindering the Boston archbishop's efforts to close churches on his own, which the archdiocese believes would drag it into bankruptcy. The Vatican is thus faced with a tough decision: to give up all property rights to parishes or to potentially lose whole dioceses.

The archdiocese is still having serious financial problems. They have resorted to using money seized from closed parishes to pay for programs that were previously funded from their operating budget. The sooner closed properties are bought and paid for, the sooner the

situation will stabilize. The Church is now "actively marketing" St. Mary Star of the Sea in East Boston, Blessed Sacrament in Jamaica Plain and St. Ann University Parish in the South End. St. Ann is likely to be sold to buyers representing both "Northeastern University and residential developers," as part of what has been labeled "the largest volume of parish property sales in the history of the Roman Catholic Church in America." A law firm supposedly unaffiliated with the archdiocese is examining past sales of closed properties, though there are questions as to whether the results of this investigation will be released.

Speaking for the archdiocese, Reverend Christopher J. Coyne expressed concern about the marketing process. "Of course we're worried. We're in the church business, not real estate. We don't want to do anything that hurts the mission of the church." *The Boston Globe*, which first exposed the church scandal, found that "major donors to the church" and "those with connections" were being allowed to buy properties for less than their market values. William F. McCall, Jr., chairman of the Real Estate Advisory Committee, claims that the archdiocese has not been involved in any wrongdoing. "We may have made a mistake or two," he says, "but everything that has been done has been very above board and clean." Secretary of State William F. Galvin begs to differ, noting that the committee is affiliated with the archdiocese. "The archdiocese has not shown the openness, expertise and credibility to be handling such transactions."

» "SNOW DAYS" continued from page 1

that students attend school for at least 180 days. Last done in 1978, such a waiver seems a real possibility now, especially since Acton and other school systems have already submitted petitions to Mr. Driscoll. Some systems such as Acton's are in particularly precarious situations because they have already cancelled six days of school this winter.

The last storm on Tuesday, March 8 vaulted this winter into sixth place on the record books. Although only five inches fell in Boston, Central and Western Massachusetts received around 10 inches. Despite shrieking winds at speeds up to 50 miles per hour, the storm was not significant enough to close most school systems, although Chelsea and Weston did.

The most recent school cancellation occurred after a snowstorm during the night of March 1-2 that was relatively moderate (8.5 inches), at least in comparison to the blizzard that rocked Boston January 24-26. The final statement on the storm from the National Weather Service (NWS) in Taunton called it "the first bliz-

zard since the April fool's storm of 1997." About 26 inches of snow fell on Boston Common while high winds, six foot drifts, and bitterly cold temperatures combined to create a severe storm that many compared to the Blizzard of 1978.

Unlike the Blizzard of 1978, the recovery period from the January storm was only a few days. School was cancelled Monday and Tuesday January 24-25. When

Payzant decided to open schools on Wednesday January 26, he was inundated with phone calls and emails from irate parents. Payzant apologized for opening schools and cancelled them for Thursday and Friday, January 27-28. Students who missed the day were all marked Constructively Present. "Hindsight is wonderful," Payzant said, "But if I'd known at midnight last night what I knew at 8 this morning, I



THE PILES OF SNOW THAT HAVE PLAGUED THE LATIN SCHOOL LANDSCAPE.



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No More Killing Children

BY LINDA ZHENG, III
& KRISTINE XUE, III

CONTRIBUTING WRITER & LAYOUT ASSOCIATE

In a controversial five-to-four vote on March 1, 2005, the United States Supreme Court abolished the death penalty for juvenile offenders. The court argued that the execution of minors is unconstitutional and violates human civil rights. Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer comprised the majority. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Sandra Day O'Connor dissented.

Since 1976, 225 death sentences have been imposed on juveniles who committed crimes while under the age of 18 in the United States. Half of the sentences were meted out by courts in Texas, Florida and Alabama. The abolition of capital punishment for juveniles will immediately take 73 inmates off death row, including Lee Boyd Malvo, the accomplice of the 2002 Washington area sniper. Christopher Simmons, the Missouri man who prompted the suit after kidnapping and murdering his neighbor, will not face the death sentence either.

The deciding vote was cast by Justice Kennedy. Although regarded as generally conservative, he sided with the majority in favor of revoking the juvenile death penalty, even after supporting it in a similar case in 1989. Since then, the number of states that have rejected the death penalty for adolescent criminals has increased from 30 to 35. In the last two years the Supreme Court has also

granted stays of execution to juvenile offenders, including Mauro Barraza of Texas and Kevin Stanford of Kentucky. Justice Kennedy was influenced by the large number of states that have eliminated juvenile death sentences, as well as by a 2002 Supreme Court ruling that abolished the death penalty for moderately mentally retarded offenders.

Furthermore, as Justice Kennedy wrote in his opinion, "It would be mis-

crimes and are fully deserving of capital punishment.

The justices may also have been compelled to rule against the juvenile death penalty from international pressure. The United States is the only Western country which has continued to execute juveniles. Around the world only Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Nigeria, China and Congo continue to do so. Justice Kennedy said that while the opinion of organizations such as the European Union and the Council of Europe was vital to the ruling, it was not the deciding factor.

Justice Scalia was clearly frustrated by the decision. "The court thus proclaims itself sole arbiter of our nation's moral standards," he said, "and in the course of discharging that awesome responsibility purports to

take guidance from the views of foreign courts and legislatures." Dianne Clements, president of a victims' advocacy group, agrees: "The United States is the only country that does many things, and that doesn't make us wrong to be a singular nation in what we choose to do, so I believe that the United States is right in doing that and the other countries are wrong."

Christopher Simmons, the defendant in the Supreme Court case, purportedly told his friends he would not be severely penalized due to his status as a minor. His statement has lent credence to fears that gangs will take advantage of the new ruling to coerce teenagers into committing violent crimes. Others worry the ending of the juvenile death penalty may lead to the elimination of numerous other types of sentences as well.



LEE BOYD MALVO AND CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS.

guided to equate the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for a greater possibility exists that a minor's character deficiencies will be reformed." His statement is supported by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. They have published a study which suggests that the brain does not reach its physical maturity until a person is approximately 20 years old. They also wrote that the rate of maturation may be stunted by abuse and neglect, which many of the juvenile criminals on death row have experienced. Judge O'Connor noted in her separately authored dissent that a blanket decision protects all criminals under the age of 18, without thought to those who have committed extraordinarily heinous

Court Preserves School Funding Status Quo

BY MONICA MLECKZO, II

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On February 15, the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruled 5-2 in favor of the state and against providing more funding for poor school districts in Massachusetts. The ruling was a boon for state government, which has stressed enormous gains made in education since the 1993 Education Reform Act. Chief Justice Margaret Marshall notes that the state was not being "unresponsive or irrational" to the needs of schools since the Education Reform Act instated MCAS testing and raised education spending from \$3.6 billion in 1993 to \$10.1 billion in 2002.

For six years, Julie Hancock, a junior at Brockton High School, was the lead plaintiff in the *Hancock v. Commissioner of Education* lawsuit, which sought more funding for public schools in 19 communities. The plaintiffs emphasized the still prominent gap between average spending on students in richer

communities like Wellesley and in poor communities like Lowell. The spending for a student in Wellesley was \$9,589, while in Lowell spending per student was \$8,407 in 2003.

According to Julie Hancock the state is not fulfilling its obligation to cover the difference between what poor districts and rich districts spend on their students. She points out that there still are not enough seats for the 30-plus kids in her classes, nor are 32 computers enough for the 4,000 students in her school. Schools cite low MCAS scores and high drop-out rates as evidence that the state needs to change its school funding formula to provide equal funding regardless of disparities in the wealth of various towns and cities across Massachusetts.

Only \$20 million has been proposed for MCAS spending next year. This cut comes at a time when Governor Mitt Romney has also suggested adding a science MCAS and then a history MCAS as graduation requirements in a few years. Education Commissioner David Driscoll believes that the solution will involve having schools spend more efficiently and will not involve the state simply handing out money.

An important result of the case is the clear belief of the SJC that legislative and executive branches of state government should control education funding, as many against "judicial activism" would argue. The ruling, however, did not dismiss the issue completely. The court made it clear that if conditions in some school districts did not improve, there may be grounds to bring forward



BOSTON ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL

a new case.

Governor Romney noted that educational equality is the "civil rights issue of our generation." Accordingly, his future agenda concerning education reform may include spending \$100 million more and even passing an Education Act of 2005. Nevertheless, he has allotted less than \$5 billion of the entire statewide budget for education in 2006.

The state's next priority is focused improvement, with the most spending going into preschools and early education. Proposals have been made to extend the school days at failing schools, provide free preschool for the neediest children and to spend more money on after school programs.

Julie Hancock and her family have expressed dismay and frustration after the ruling in being forced to wait even longer for improved schooling, while Governor Romney commented that money is not all that will solve the problem.

Social Security Showdown

BY JIEYU JIANG, III

STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, March 2, the Bush administration announced a 60-day, 60-stop national tour in an attempt to convince a skeptical public about the president's plan for overhauling Social Security. Under Bush's new proposal, workers under age 55 would be allowed to divert up to four percentage points of their Social Security taxes into private stock and bond investment accounts. In exchange, those born after 1950 would receive less money each month. This new plan is supposed to reduce the Social Security debt and ensure that the program continues functioning. According to CNN Fact Check, however, while the president implies a private retirement account will "get a better rate of return" than the current Social Security system, he doesn't clarify the risk of getting a lower return or even losing money on the investments.

President Bush, in urging congressional support for that bill, said that "we need to act now to fix Social Security permanently." The plan has provoked much opposition. Howard Dean, the new Democratic Party chairman, criticized Bush and remarked, "I don't believe the way to fix Social Security is to have Wall Street run it so that it can be invested in Enron and Tyco and MCI." Treasury Secretary John Snow stated, "We'll never get a fair and equitable solution to the Social Security problem unless personal accounts are an integral part of the solution." Democrats maintain that Bush's new proposal of privatization will destroy the long-standing retirement program and add to the national debt.

Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, also the chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, suggested tabling private accounts in order to negotiate with Democrats on a possible compromise that would still lessen the financial burden of Social Security on the government. "Maybe we ought to focus on solvency and bring people to the table just over what do you do for the solvency," Grassley said. Massachusetts Democrat Edward Kennedy adamantly stated that "if the president's committed to destroying Social Security, which is privatization, then it doesn't make much sense to get into a negotiation."

President Bush's proposal to restructure Social Security includes limiting benefits for wealthy retirees, indexing benefits to prices rather than wages, increasing the retirement age and discouraging taking Social Security benefits early. Bush says that without immediate action, Social Security will face a \$11 trillion deficit in the next 75 years. According to the annual report from the Social Security Trustees, however, it will realistically only be \$3.7 trillion.

Democrats are not the only ones having doubts about the new plan; several congressional Republicans are also against it. Some are even proposing new alternatives for reforming Social Security. Chuck Hagel, the Republican senator of Nebraska, intends to propose a new strategy to raise the retirement age and create a personal account option only for people under age 45.

According to a survey held by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, the percentage of Americans who say they favor private accounts has dropped to 46 percent from 54 percent in December and 58 percent in September.



WELLESLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Upheaval in Lebanon

BY ASHLYN GARRY, II
NEWS EDITOR

Former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri was killed Monday, February 14. Hariri was in office from 1992 to 1998 and served again from 2000 until his resignation in October 2004. A bomb blast ripped through central Beirut in front of two fashionable five-star hotels, the St. George and the Phoenicia-Intercontinental. It left a 15-foot crater in the street and set more than 22 cars on fire; about a mile away, windows were blown out of financial buildings.

the Ta'if Accord. Many other countries, including the United States, also sent forces into Lebanon, though not permanently. With the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon in 2000, many people called for the departure of the 13,000 Syrian troops as well (including the U.N. Security Council, which in October 2004 passed Resolution 1559 requesting Syrian withdrawal).

Syria vehemently denies having any role in Hariri's assassination. In fact, a man claiming responsibility for the bombing is from a group called "Victory and Jihad." On Al-Jazeera TV, he said Hariri's



PRO-SYRIAN (ABOVE) AND ANTI-SYRIAN (BELOW) DEMONSTRATORS STAGED PROTESTS ON BACK TO BACK DAYS IN CENTRAL BEIRUT.



The circumstances of the attack are still unclear. It is widely believed that the three-year extension of pro-Syrian president Emile Lahoud's term caused Hariri's resignation. Hariri was the most prominent face in the Lebanese government opposed to the Syrian occupation. As a result, Hariri supporters as well as the international community suspect Syria's involvement in the bombing.

Two weeks after the bombing, an estimated 50,000 people gathered in Beirut's Martyr Square to peacefully protest the Syrian occupation. Widespread demonstrations both for and against Syria have continued. Monday, March 7 saw large anti-Syrian demonstrations. The next day the Hezbollah militia organized pro-Syria demonstrations.

Pro-Syria prime minister Omar Karami submitted his official resignation on March 28 because of the anger his government was expressing. On Wednesday, March 9, however, after the large pro-Syria demonstrations, 69 out of 128 members of the Lebanese parliament voted to reinstate Karami to his position, despite his support of Syria's continued involvement in Lebanese affairs.

Syria first occupied Lebanon in 1990 at the end of the Lebanese Civil War (1975 to 1990). The Arab League authorized the deployment of 16,000 Syrian soldiers east of Beirut and in the Bekka Valley as part of

death was "just punishment" for his close relationship with Saudi Arabia. Indeed, his relationship with King Fahd, the official Saudi ruler, began when the pair met as young men. The king even made Hariri his personal emissary to Lebanon. Still, many suspect that Hariri's murder was previously arranged by Syrian leaders because of his opposition to the Syrian occupation of his country.

On March 8, approximately 200,000 pro-Syrians gathered to oppose the day-old agreement made by Syria and Lebanon in which Syria agreed to remove its troops, infantrymen, intelligence agents and others from Lebanese soil. The world at large, including Russia, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France and the United States approve this measure. The American government especially supports the agreement because it views Syria as a terrorist haven and wants to further the cause of democracy in Lebanon.

The plan has drawn criticism from some Arab nations and the Hezbollah militia, which has broad influence in Lebanon because of its role in providing social services in the fragmented nation. They are angered that Resolution 1559 calls for disbanding their militias, and feel that the 1989 Ta'if Accord, which would leave Syrian troops in Lebanon, represented a stronger and more comprehensive peace plan for the Middle East.

UN Faces Scrutiny

BY MARY HONG, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

The United Nations has been hit hard as new information about the Oil-for-Food program scandal and widespread sexual abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping forces continues to surface.

Oil-for-Food?

The Oil-for-Food program in was instituted nine years ago as an effort to aid Iraqis suffering under Saddam Hussein. The program allowed the Iraqi government to sell oil while remaining under the heavy U.N. sanctions placed on Iraq after its unprovoked attack on Kuwait six years earlier. The catch was that all revenues from the sales were designated for buying food, medicine and other humanitarian needs. Strict guidelines were developed to carefully screen candidate contractors. An auditing division was responsible for overseeing financial aspects of the transactions.

The U.N.'s troubles began last January, when news leaked of corruption in the selection of contractors. Hussein also managed to use the program to generate illegal revenue not used for humanitarian aid. Hussein is estimated to have made over \$21.3 million from the illegal exchanges. Another question is whether some American oilmen continued business with Iraq after the United States severed all ties to the country. Even former vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp is under scrutiny and may face questioning for his involvement.

A painfully slow investigation has been carried out due to the secrecy of the alleged transactions, the obscurity of the middlemen who facilitated the smuggling and the difficulty of obtaining concrete evidence. After the allegations, a permanent subcommittee was formed to investigate. Norm Coleman, the Missouri senator initially in charge of the investigation, has called for resignation of the U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Annan is closely linked to the scandal, since it was revealed that his son Kojo was involved. Kojo Annan was paid \$2,500 a month by oil company Cotecna Inspection SA. Nevertheless, Kofi Annan has thus far been able to maintain wide support and is determined to ride out the storm. On February 3, 2005, the Independent In-

quiry Committee issued its first official interim report concerning the scandal. The report condemned the actions of the executive director of the Oil-for-Food program, Benon Sevan, a senior officer who has worked with the U.N. for many years.

Soldiers for Sex?

A widespread sex scandal in war-torn Congo and nearby African countries such as Burundi is rapidly gaining media attention. Over 150 allegations of rape or sexual exploitation by U.N. soldiers have surfaced. Even children may have been exploited, usually in



UN SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN.

exchange for food or money. Horror stories have emerged of U.N. personnel bribing girls with candy and then raping them. There have also been reports of gang rape, prostitution and sexual abuse of children. Archives of pornographic photos and videos of these encounters with the perpetrators (all U.N. employees) have been found. Despite the "zero tolerance policy" and "code of conduct" established in 2001 after similar scandals in West Africa also concerning the sexual abuse of refugees, the current U.N. special representative, William Lacy Swing, admits that abuse continues. Swing, who has been overseeing the U.N. investigation, had already met with top officials over that issue when the new allegations came to light. Recently, U.N. deputy secretary general Louis Frandette proposed "increased pre-deployment training on sexual exploitation and abuse issues for peace keepers and the need for more investigative personnel and resources." There is still no system in place to oversee the actions of U. N. workers, even as the organization tries to contain the scandal.



UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS OFF DUTY.

Should Children Have to Pay the Ultimate Price?



By FRANKLIN(E) HO, I
FORUM EDITOR

Shermaine A. Johnson recently received the most relieving news of his life. Having raped and killed as a minor, he was sentenced to death, but with the Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Simmons vs. Roper*, 73 inmates, including Johnson, had their death sentences suddenly—and arbitrarily—repealed. They were let off the hook simply by virtue of being younger than 18 at the time they committed their crimes—as if once they reached this age, they would have experienced a dramatic change in character.

A significant factor against the juvenile death penalty is the supposedly widespread agreement among mental health experts that people under 18 are not yet “mature” enough, mentally or emotionally, to be held responsible for their actions. I beg to differ. No sophomore, junior or senior in this school could fail to grasp the moral and legal implications of murder. Although our brains may not technically be as developed as those of adults, teenagers under the age of 18 are still capable of judging right from wrong. The idea that murder is morally wrong has been drummed into every child's mind since primary school. By high-school age, a minor has already grasped the dire implications of ending another's life.

A second argument in favor of the Supreme Court's decision was that because 30 states had already outlawed the juvenile death penalty, then the nation as a whole should have followed suit. Because the United States represents a wide variety of opinions and backgrounds, in order to represent the beliefs of all citizens as fairly as possible, the former state-by-state policy should be reinstated.

The issue of the juvenile death penalty was originally brought to the Supreme Court's attention after examining the case of Christopher Simmons, who kidnapped, bound and gagged Shirley Crook and threw her into a river. He was 17 at the time. His actions did not arise from a sudden moment of hatred or anger—rather, the murder of Crook was completely premeditated and planned. In trial, Simmons was deemed to be mentally sound and was subsequently sentenced to death. Now, like Shermaine Johnson, he has been removed from death row for the sole reason of being a minor at the time he committed his crime. If he had waited just a few more months until he turned 18, and then murdered, would he not be on death row today? How can these few months between adolescence and legal adulthood change a person so profoundly?

The Supreme Court made a gross generalization when they grouped all juvenile death row inmates under the simple denomination of juvenile offenders. They, like everyone else, should be judged accordingly and by their individual cases. After all, what basis is there for considering a person an adult at the age of 18? What constitutes true “adulthood” anyway? Now all minors are thrust under a single category, allowing them to commit crimes with the knowledge that they can “cheat” death. The former system must be reinstated, and the guilt of a criminal should be determined by the circumstances of his crime, his background and his mental capacity to discern right from wrong.

Not by his age.

By THOMAS GRAZIANO, II
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, March 1, the Supreme Court of the United States declared the execution of juvenile offenders unconstitutional by a close 5-4 vote. Citing an “evolving standard of decency,” the ruling voided the death sentences of 72 juvenile killers on death rows in 19 states. Three of the four dissenters are “originalists,” who feel the meaning of the Constitution and the Eighth Amendment are frozen in their 18th century forms. If this were the case, however, horse thievery, adultery and forgery would still be punishable by execution. Clearly, times have changed. This decision has struck down an immoral practice, which had isolated America from nearly every other nation on earth, and had done little or nothing to actually deter crime.

American law maintains that a person under 18 is not mature enough to drink, marry without permission, serve on a jury, or even vote for the president who appoints the judge passing the sentence in his case. Yet, until this month, it set aside the most severe of this nation's punishments for those very individuals. Those deemed incapable of living on their own nevertheless occupied 72 of the more than 3,000 cells on death rows across the country. Subjection to capital punishment implies an equal standing in society, but clearly the law denies this to those under 18—and for very good reason. Most 16 and 17-year-olds have not yet reached mental and emotional maturity. They simply lack the basic ability to fully incorporate consequences into their decision-making processes, if not comprehension of right and wrong. Those who have not yet reached legal or mental adulthood should not be subject to this society's strictest punishment. Until last Tuesday, the overall immaturity of those under 18 was recognized in almost every legal aspect of this country, except capital punishment.

While this decision is an important step, the status of children under the law in this nation is still very much unsettled. While the possibility of execution no longer looms for children behind bars, incarceration in adult jails wholly deprives these inmates of any possibility of rehabilitation. Juvenile facilities in this nation are far from ideal, but they still represent a less destructive environment for young prisoners. Imprisonment in facilities serves the dual role of allowing the possibility of reform while preventing any further victimization of innocent people in the outside world.

Youth must never become a literal “get out of jail free” card. However, the type of child who commits heinous murders (and their acts are indeed terrible—I do not debate their severity, but the method of punishment) often has little awareness of the consequences of his actions. In the debate over juvenile killers, we should never forget that they are just that: murderers who, unless reformed, present a serious danger to society. Capital punishment sows pain and anger by dividing communities, further traumatizing the families of the victims and utterly failing at preventing future violence. Those who support answering one killing with another only perpetuate a cycle as destructive as the original act. The crimes of juvenile killers are brutal, but this is no justification for carrying on an equally brutal practice, long since forsaken by the rest of the civilized world.

Forum Question

Should minors be subject to the death penalty?



“No, for a child to be held to an action before society accepts him as its equal is irrational and wrong.”

—Monty Kaplan, I



“Yes, they're criminals just like any other criminals and they should be treated as such.”

—James Barned-Smith, II



“No, I don't believe in the death penalty under any circumstances.”

—Lauren Shapiro, III



“No, I don't think anyone should be killed for doing anything. Death is a big deal and I don't think anybody's life should be taken away.”

—Ping Zeng, IV



“No, because people under 18 are not able to comprehend the outcome.”

—Le Nguyen, V



“No, because all deserve a second change no matter the circumstances.”

—John Le, VI

FORUM

Just Stop Doggin' Him Around

BY ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
STAFF WRITER

No doubt, Michael Jackson has his peculiarities. His constantly ridiculed high pitched voice, his ghostly white complexion and his reclusive, yet extravagant lifestyle have made him the target of various parodies and sketch shows. Now, the 46-year-old "King of Pop" has been accused of intoxicating minor Gavin Arvizo with alcohol, showing him explicit pornographic images on his computer and sexually molesting him.

The media circus's depiction of Jackson as a maniacal, deranged and perverted sub-human, however, is simply unfounded, given the substantial evidence indicative of his innocence.

A few years ago, Michael Jackson was scrutinized severely after Martin Bashir's documentary "Living with Michael Jackson" premiered on ABC in February, 2003. It was during an interview aired on the program that Jackson's accuser was first introduced to the public: 12-year-old Gavin Arvizo, a young cancer victim whom Michael Jackson generously supported both financially and emotionally. Arvizo was depicted as an affectionate youth who was fond of Jackson. He was shown leaning his head on Jackson's shoulder while laughing and joking with the pop star.

Hardly the picture of a victimized child.

The Arvizo family has had a history of extortion. The Jackson claim is just another opportunity for them to take advantage of a situation. In 1998, for instance, Gavin's mother Janet Ventura filed a whopping lawsuit of \$1.6 million against JC Penney security guards after they attempted to detain her and her sons for shoplifting. Two years later, Ventura affixed an astounding new charge of sexual molestation to the \$1.6 million

lawsuit. Apparently, Ventura had a two-year memory lapse in which she forgot to tell lawyers that the security guards in question had actually "sexually fondled [her] breasts and pelvic area for up to 7 minutes" at the time.

In the present case, a substantial inconsistency has emerged: an audio recording in which Gavin and his mother openly denied any misconduct by Jackson. The tape was recorded on February 16, 2003, the same month that the Bashir



MICHAEL JACKSON SPEAKS IN HIS DEFENSE.

documentary aired, lividly contesting the way Bashir hinted at Jackson's impropriety. Ventura later made a formal complaint to the Independent Television Commission, arguing that: "Bashir's program was a complete distortion of the truth about Michael Jackson as I know and admire him. At no time has Gavin ever been treated with anything other than love, respect and the deepest kindness by Michael Jackson."

The supposed incidents of molestation occurred shortly after these tapes were produced. The story, however, is still extremely inconsistent and illogical. If the incidents of child molestation in fact happened after the videos were produced, more than a year after Janet Ventura, her two sons and her daughter

moved to Neverland Ranch, that would mean that Jackson had initiated this inappropriate behavior when he was under high international scrutiny. Keep in mind that this accusation immediately followed the Bashir interview in which Jackson made the now infamous comment that he allowed young children to "share his bed with him." Although the comment was certainly quite conspicuous and probably idiotic, the chronology of events does not make any sense.

The most recent inconsistency in the prosecution's case lies in the testimony of Star Arvizo, the accuser's brother. Star initially claimed to have witnessed the alleged acts of molestation three times. During his recent appearance in court, however, Star claimed to have only witnessed Michael Jackson molest his brother twice. What happened to that third act of molestation? If in fact there had been a third occurrence of molestation, would he not have remembered?

It is Janet Ventura, not Gavin Arvizo, who has publicly accused Michael Jackson of molesting her son. It is also Ventura who has a history of falsely accusing people of sexual abuse. Interestingly enough, Ventura's public outcry came shortly after Jackson ceased to provide monetary support for her son. It seems that once the free cars and rent were no longer offered, Ventura saw an opportunity to extort money from the vulnerable Jackson.

Eccentricity is not synonymous with guilt. Although Michael Jackson is clearly a man detached from the normalcy of reality, the current case presented by the prosecution against him has not produced a credible or persuading story. Much of the clamor surrounding this case comes not from the accusations themselves, but from the obsession this culture has with the celebrity of the defendant and many of the witnesses.

Month In Review

BY QUEEN ARSEM O'MALLEY, V
(DERANGED) COLUMNIST

Just as "Seinfeld" proved that there could be a hit show about nothing, I'm out to prove that there can be an article about nothing. So here it is, your monthly dose of *nichts*.

Number One: The Oscars

Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn if you've read about the Oscars a billion times already. Hilary Swank won, blah, blah, blah, but she would've looked better rolled up in the red carpet itself. Jamie Foxx had a strange tattoo on the back of his head, and whenever the camera showed him with his daughter, it was clear that Chris Rock's jokes flew *way* over her perfectly coiffed head. Johnny Depp, though ravishing, was not quite as much with his excess facial hair and glasses. Although I think just about every woman on the planet would still agree with me when I say that Vanessa Paradis should die a long and painful death, or at least break the man's heart—so the rest of us can dream.

Number Two: Michael Jackson

Ah, how the mighty have fallen—he used to be a cute, good singer, famous, well-liked and black. And he used to be a man. Now, I'm not quite sure what he's supposed to be. Well, he, she or "it" is currently on trial for child molestation; though it is a little beyond me what child in his right mind would ever want to shake hands with "it." Ironically, Michael Jackson has spent the money he received from his trial publicity on his 10th new nose of the year. You would think that, with all this plastic work, his nose would not resemble a little white stick with lima-bean holes. In retrospect, maybe his nostrils are shaped that way so no little kid can stick a lollipop, crayon or other painful item up his nose while he "befriends" them.

Number Three: St. Patrick's Day and Snow Days

At the moment, we have school until the end of June—unless you happen to be a senior, in which case I hate you. The famous "Union" forbids us from being in school in July, so if we have another snow day, it leaves "them" with the options of either adding minutes to each day, taking away some precious Saturdays or making us go to school on St. Patrick's Day/Bunker Hill Day/Good Friday. Bunker Hill Day is a "holiday" that no one actually cares about, so they can go ahead and take that away. Good Friday, well, I'm not religious so I guess that getting rid of that is fine, too. But St. Patrick's Day? Nuh-uh. Not happening! Think of what the little leprechauns would say. They'd be crushed and devastated. Absolutely devastated.

As I stroke my penguin Albert's head, I leave you with a few wise words: Life may be tough, but it doesn't matter, because the Patriots have begun a dynasty and the Sox won the World Series. If you are a Yankees fan, I suggest you make like a lemming and jump off a cliff with the rest of your kind. Also, to give me ideas, comment on articles or simply to remind me of what a brilliant and creative genius I am, send an email to queenrocksmyredsox@mindless.com. I will try to respond personally, but the volume of fan mail is sometimes overwhelming. And for that, I'd like to thank the Academy.

Gay-braham Lincoln

BY ANNEKE SCHWOB, II
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

To some, he was the greatest president that America ever had. To others, he was a powerful leader who gamely worked to hold our country together, even when it was stretched to the breaking point and beyond. To still others, he was an oppressive radical who actively sought to destroy the established world order. He was the author of several speeches that defined American rhetoric. He was shy and awkward in life, yet in death, his image, as memorialized on the penny and five dollar bill, has a stately gravity.

And now, apparently, he's gay.

That's right: according to the late C. A. Tripp, once a professor of psychiatry at the State University of New York, and a sex researcher who worked with Alfred Kinsey, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States of America, was gayer than a spring parade. Tripp's magnum opus *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* lays forth the (somewhat tenuous) case for the president's homosexuality, citing such examples as his unusually close friendship with the Illinois-based merchant Joshua Speed, with whom he shared a bed for four years, his unclear relationship with the captain of his bodyguard, David Derickson and his tempestuous marriage to Mary Todd Lincoln.

All of this is supposedly to be taken as compelling evidence. The only problem is, of course, that it isn't. Yes,

Lincoln shared a bed with men at several points in his life. So what? Even the most superficial cultural research into Lincoln's time period reveals that the taking of bedmates was common practice and that most unmarried men shared a bed with a friend at one point or another. Since it would be ridiculous to then assume that all men of the 19th century were homosexual, Tripp's primary argument—that Lincoln would, quite literally, sleep with other men—falls through. Many of Tripp's other arguments can also be summarily dismissed. Yes, Lincoln was in a troubled marriage; he and his wife had documented problems, and Mary Todd could well have been certifiably insane. Yet Lincoln also had four sons; clearly, not a man who was shirking his husbandly duty. And, as anyone in today's society of 50 percent divorce rates will tell you, not getting on with a spouse does not make one gay. The single piece of evidence not so easily explained is Lincoln's unclear relationship with Derickson. Yet this, in turn, leads us to the most pressing objection of all: why does Abe's sexuality matter?

Tripp's argument, which is echoed by other scholars currently engaged in the "outing historical figures" fad, is that such information as Lincoln's sexuality helps to create a more complete picture of the president's life. This sort of academic interest is all very well, but it does nothing to alter Lincoln's accomplishments. Lincoln was, and will always be, the man who stood at Gettysburg and delivered that most moving of addresses; the man

who had the courage to draft the Emancipation Proclamation against almost unanimous opposition; the man who was able to repair the fractured Union, to bring together the North and South, to lead the U.S. through Civil War; and the man who, ultimately, ensured that "this Nation, under God shall not perish from this earth." In light of these achievements, do doubts about his sexuality seem irrelevant? Lincoln could have been queer as a three-dollar bill and it still doesn't change what he did.

The other argument, of course, is that claiming Lincoln "for the gay community" would be a massive coup for gay rights. Surely, once they have realized that one of their beloved presidents was homosexual, people will embrace the gay community with open arms! Um, no. The hatred and intolerance to which the gay community is still subjected is not something that can disappear with the addition of famous people to a Gay Celebrity list.

The issue is not really with Lincoln's sexuality: there is no issue with Lincoln's sexuality. If he was gay, he was gay. If he was straight, he was straight. End of story. Sexuality only becomes an issue when it is falsely brought to the fore, when Lincoln becomes, not the 16th president, but the gay president. Lincoln's accomplishments were, and are, magnificent. In the face of such greatness, what is sexuality but an irrelevancy? Let's remember him, rather, as anyone would want to be remembered: by what he did, not who he was.

Bush Agenda Creates Social Insecurity

BY YUCONG MA, II
& THOMAS GRAZIANO, II
A&E EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Assuming that the ozone layer does not dissipate, nuclear war holds off for another century and global warming only consumes Japan in the next two decades, all that the next generation of America has to fear is the imminent collapse of Social Security. According to President Bush, the current agenda for changing Social Security involves privatizing Social Security accounts. Dramatic statements have been made that the Social Security system will be "bankrupt" in 2042, and Democratic fingers have been pointing incessantly, but the inherent flaw in Bush's plan is its hypocritical stand on the original purpose of Social Security.

This far-reaching government program began in 1929, when the Stock Market Crash sent the United States into the Great Depression. In order to plump financial cushions for the elderly and match European retirement pensions, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed the Social Security Act in 1935 as part of the New Deal. Originally boasted as "a monthly check to you for the rest of your life, beginning when you're 65," Social Security essentially provided steady government payments for seniors in case of another stock market crash, like that of 1929, in which many hard-working families had lost life savings. As the decades passed, payments rose along with taxes and the retirement age. Social Security was at its peak in 1998, during the Clinton administration, with a \$200 million surplus generated by the baby boomers. Most of this

surplus has gone to fund payments for that same generation. However, with this flood of retirees, it is estimated that in 2018, the surplus will run out and starting in 2042, Social Security payroll taxes will only be able to give each eligible citizen around 73 percent of the full monthly payment.

In January 2005, President Bush began his second term with strong emphasis on privatizing Social Security. What Bush has in mind is making four percent of Social Security taxes available to be invested in the stock market in a "conservative mix of stocks and bonds." Although this may not seem like a large amount, this small change in policy will cost \$2 trillion over the next decade and possibly even more in the long run. With the long-term projections of the Social Security fund and lifespan growth in mind, most politicians agree that there should be some changes made to the program. One notable option that has been mentioned is the possibility of raising taxes on higher-income workers. Currently, income above \$90,000 is not taxed for Social Security, but lawmakers have proposed to push the cap to \$120,000

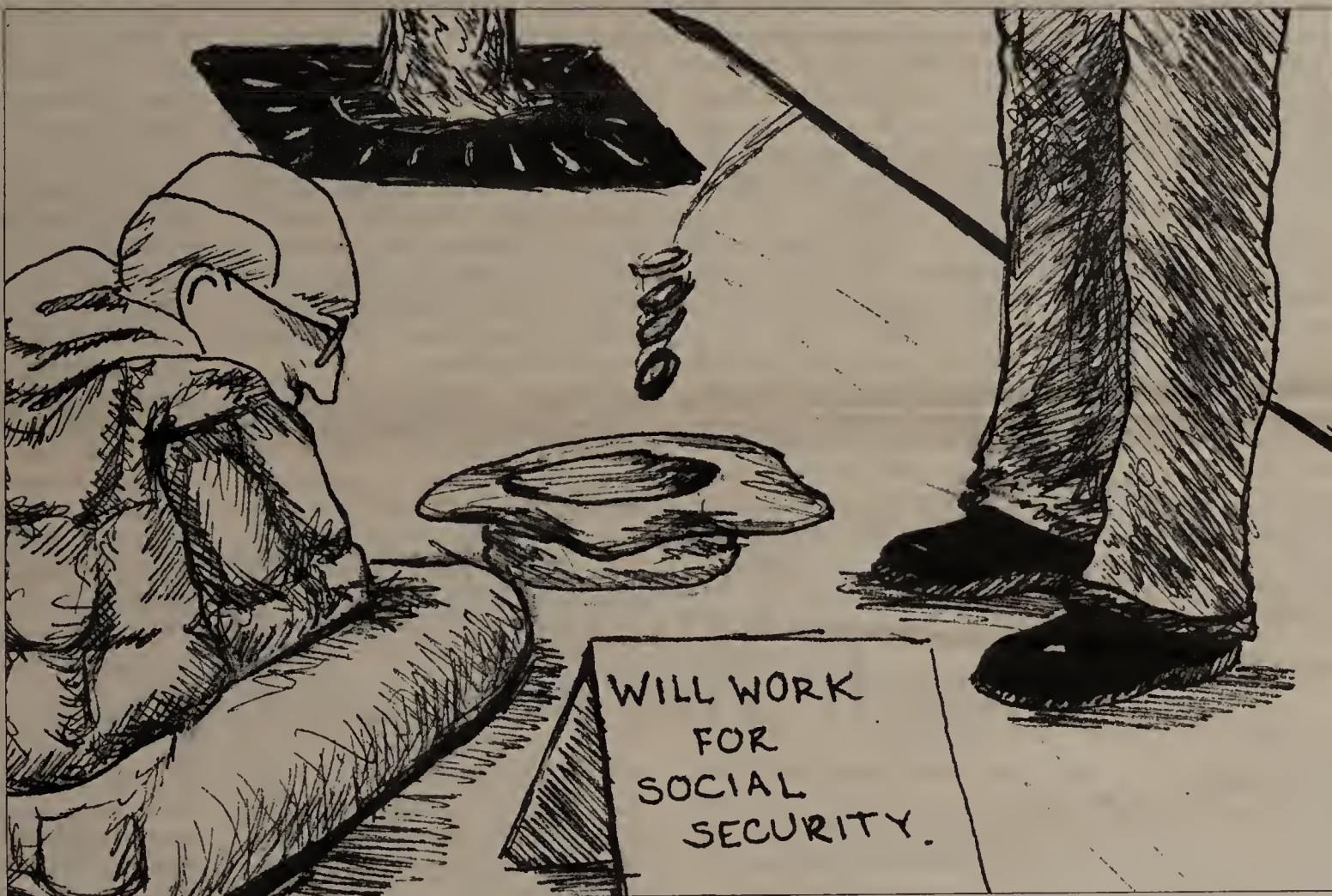
to squeeze more from richer citizens. A February poll by the Associated Press revealed that 74 percent of the nation supports such a measure, while only 11 percent preferred to cut future retiree benefits. Predictably opposed to raising any taxes at all, Bush has positioned himself staunchly against such potential alternatives. In fact, GOP senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska has even gone so far as to support a version of Bush's privatization plan that pushes the retirement age up another year. One year seems like a small loss to teenagers, but in a country where 67 is already just ten years away from the average life expectancy, time is quickly running out.

Recently, Bush asserted that privatization will allow Americans a better means of taking care of their own money—a roundabout way of saying that the federal government cannot be trusted with the average citizen's taxes. Other supporters of privatization defend the policy with the claim that private accounting will prove harder to be cut by the government than transfer payments. It seems like a reasonable statement—until one is hit by the

sobering realization that Americans may still need to worry about the government seizing private property.

It is here that the hypocrisy of the Bush administration becomes apparent: the burden of a program created to carry more responsibility for the welfare of senior citizens is being put back on these citizens' shoulders. Bush's declaration that Americans will gain more from putting their Social Security funds into stocks is based on the assumption that the stock market will go up, not down; this assumption is contrary to FDR's intention when he established the program to specifically prevent against such depressions. At a time when the stock market is still sluggish, benefits for privatized accounts will not materialize out of nowhere. Bush's expectations are unfounded. Moreover, to those who have been paying attention to Bush's speeches over the years, these drastic statements about threats to the fragile future of Social Security will sound eerily similar to his stubborn convictions about the dangers of "weapons of mass destruction." While it may go too far to

say that Bush is making attempts at another wild-goose chase, reforms for Social Security should be seriously considered and evaluated. Perhaps changes should be made and policies revised, but Americans should learn from the first time they mistakenly followed the president's lead. The public and lawmakers alike need to take a closer look at the tottering principles on which Bush's privatization is based before making decisions that will affect Social Security for today's youth, tomorrow's retirees.



ANNEKE SCHWOB (II)

Mission Impossible

BY LISA JING, II
FORUM EDITOR

When the New England Association of Schools and Colleges pays a visit to Boston Latin next Fall, board members will be audience to an event so momentous that it will resound forever in legend: the school-wide Mission Statement Choral Festival. Students will line up shoulder to shoulder in the auditorium, their faces cracked in wide smiles and their shirts plastered with bumper stickers screaming "Honk if you love a contemporary classical education!" At the sound of a gunshot, Ms. Kelley will raise a purple banner and a chorus of "Boston Latin seeks to ground its..." will erupt in the chambers.

In reality, none of this pageantry will take place. Though it might as well.

The latest task that soldiers—er, students—have received to test their allegiance to the Purple Vanguard is their duty of memorizing, performing and routing the awesome powers of the Latin

School Mission Statement. The method the administration has adopted to this end and the sudden appearance of this policy in the bulletin and school website are alarming and suspicious. Quite clearly, the timing between the NEASC's visit and the trend to enforce memorization of the Mission Statement is not a coincidence: guests are coming and it is time again to put up the old holiday

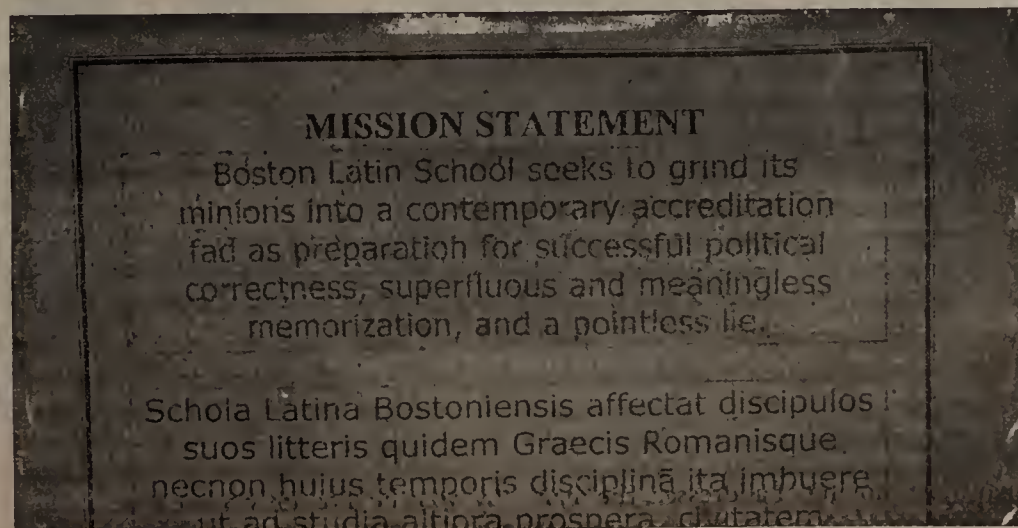
decorations. But why use the students as the holly and mistletoe this time?

Ms. Kelley is justified in wishing every student at Boston Latin to understand why he is here. However, when the policy to which that student is adhering will shrivel away the day after board members leave, when he sees that once again he is learning "to the test"—though the acronym in question is now NEASC,

not MCAS—the Mission Statement becomes nothing more than a stale jumble of words with mediocre syntax and alarming word choice. After all, who could deny that Boston Latin has frightening tendencies when its own summary of aims claims to "ground" students in their education, as if their books and teachers were surrogate parents punishing them for an infraction?

According to the current Mission Statement, Boston Latin "seeks to ground its students in a contemporary classical education as preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life." Unfortunately, this Mission Statement has failed to be integrated in the true-blue (or purple) fabric of our school, instead floating out in the open as a pretty banner, a crocheted maxim that declares Latin to be something that it is not.

But, of course, its recitation must be, another rite of passage in our "rewarding life."



ISAAC MEISTER (I)

FORUM

Albanians: Faced With Evil

BY RADHIKA GARLAND, II
STAFF WRITER

Although atrocities committed against the Kosovars in Serbia six years ago prompted NATO to enter the conflict on their behalf, today ethnic Albanians still receive little, if any, attention from the global community. This negligence of their continued mistreatment and misjudgement by many European nations is inexcusable.

The anti-Albanian sentiments propagated by Serbian ex-president Slobodan Milosevic are still prevalent, as is the violence committed against the Kosovars: many Albanians are still afraid to leave their homes and travel to Serb-dominated areas. This fear is spread by a public organization called the Bridge Watchers, which is made up of self-appointed Serbian men determined to keep Kosovo ethnically "pure" by assaulting any Albanian who ventures across the ethnic boundaries of Belgrade, the capital city. According to local human rights workers, this group faces little opposition from authorities. Police and convicts alike join in these attacks against Albanians. Many Serbians believe that the Bridge Watchers is a "civic organization" needed to counter the "Albanian threat." Serbian insurgent propaganda such as "Albanians have only one goal: to expand their state by fascist means" are common. Ironically, in making such declarations, these Serbian groups overlook their own recent history of political dictatorship.

Serbian Albanians also face violence and oppression across the European continent. A few months ago, two Albanian men hijacked a bus in Athens, Greece. The public's reaction to the event once the men's ethnicities were disclosed was shocking. Anti-Albanian protests were held in many parts of



ANTI-ALBANIAN PROTEST IN MACEDONIA

the city with flyers posted at the site of the hold-up, calling for a pan-Greek nation. Although the Greek prime minister Costas Karamanlis admirably condemned the harassment of Albanian citizens, stating that the Albanian people should not be blamed for the hijacker's crimes, the government has done nothing to suppress such flagrant anti-Albanian propaganda.

Much of the anti-Albanian sentiment found today stems from the massive number of illegal Albanian immigrants pouring into countries such as Greece and Italy. Since many of these are fleeing from poverty, the best way to alleviate the current situation is to first address the destitution, and soon. Until that time arrives, however, discrimination against ethnic Albanians in nations to which they have fled for sanctuary has proven to be too prominent an issue to be left unnoticed by the global community.

Muslims: Not the Face of Evil

BY TAMKINAT FIROZ, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Earlier this year, I was sitting in Spanish class when someone suddenly called me a terrorist. I was shocked and surprised that three years after September 11 people still harbor such negative feelings toward Muslims.

There is no doubt that 9/11 was a horrific day for all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. It was a day that challenged our strength and unity as a people, a day on which we proudly showed our ability to stand together. From this strength, however, arose a horrible backlash: Muslims living in America began to face a new spate of hate crimes.

Many Muslims migrated to the United States with a goal similar to that of other Americans—to experience the American Dream. Unfortunately, these dreams were hindered for some when ignorant people began to blindly accuse them of terrorism. The American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee reported that in only one month after the September 11 attacks, over 700 hate crimes against American Muslims were committed. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, in addition, received 785 such reports. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' hate-crime hotlines received 70 calls per hour and the police and sheriff's departments of Los Angeles reported 167 hate crime incidents in the first month after 9/11.

Muslims were beaten to death, harassed and emotionally abused. One such story is a series of so-called drive-by shootings in Mesa, Arizona, committed by Frank Silva Roque. The incidents began with the death of Balbir Singh Sodhi, a 49-year-old Sikh who looked like a Muslim because of his skin color and long beard. He was shot outside his gas station. After-

wards, Roque shot a Lebanese-American at another gas station. Finally, he opened fire on an Afghan family's home. When the police questioned his motives, he exclaimed fiercely, "I'm an American! I'm a damn American all the way!"

Muslims everywhere are now left with a new dilemma. Due to such hate crimes, they are afraid to show their religion and identity, fearing that people will associate them on first impulse with the terrorists who have tainted their religious identity. Some Muslim women who wear hijabs (Islamic headdresses) are afraid to leave their homes because of how people view them and their dress.

Conversely, these hate crimes have caused Muslims to cling even tighter to their faith. They try to counter the negative sentiment by showing society what they are really like. Some women have started wearing hijabs and sharing lessons on Islam in order to educate the less informed. In a sense, they are challenging those who are ignorant by showing them that no matter the circumstance, the American people should never have reason to fear an entire religious denomination. In teaching others to have faith, the women reaffirm their own.

As sad as this particular issue is, it is even more upsetting to realize that the United States has always experienced cycles of discrimination, targeting a particular group of people with hate crimes. Examples include Japanese and German Americans in World War II, African-Americans during the Jim Crow Era and more recently, Muslim Americans living in the aftermath of September 11. When a country is as large and diverse as the United States, sometimes a particular group becomes isolated and regarded with distrust. When people need somewhere to channel their fear, a particular religious or ethnic group is all too often the one to suffer.

Kim Jong Il: The Face Of Evil?

BY LOUIS VENTURELLI, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

On February 10, 2005, North Korea abruptly withdrew from talks with America, China and several other nations. This action raised the serious question of why, in the midst of disarmament talks, the Communist nation would choose now to abandon such a conference and admit to possessing not only nuclear production capability, but also several completed weapons of mass destruction. Was it a simple power move aiming to give North Korea more punch in the international community? Was North Korea trying to guard against retaliation for its supposed sale of nuclear materials to Libya, as alleged by United States officials earlier this month? Or was the power-mad, infantile Kim Jong Il once again attempting to bully the world into submission?

Taking into account previous actions of the Bush administration of Pyongyang, this declaration of nuclear capability makes perfect sense. The president and his advisors have all but ignored North Korea and, in the country's own words, "We [...] have manufactured nukes for self-defense to cope with the Bush administration's evermore undisguised policy to isolate and stifle [North Korea]." Moreover, with their six-party talks, the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Russia

have all had a hand in dealing with North Korea, giving the rest of the world its best shot at negotiating with the rogue nation. It is understandable that Kim Jong Il is considered untrustworthy and in need of firm handling. Indeed, Bush seems to

present possibility of invasion. So, in the eyes of Kim Jong Il, admitting to having nuclear capability is the best deterrent North Korea could hope to have against Bush's aggressive line.

In order to effectively convince the



NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM JONG-IL WITH HIS SON

be taking a page out of Reagan's book, working to force the North Koreans into submission by means of United Nations sanctions, political pressure and the ever-

North Koreans to disarm, different tactics need to be used. The North Koreans must be approached with a list of firm demands in one hand and offers of economic aid and

the reduction of sanctions in the other. There is no question that, for the sake of international relations, North Korea must abandon completely its nuclear weapons program. The United States has many options available to it to convince North Korea to give up this ill-fated deterrent policy without involving Reaganesque threats and sanctions. For the past two decades, North Korea has had a steadily declining economy. The international community would benefit from free interaction. Likewise, offers to provide economic advisers to help heal the malaise plaguing Pyongyang today would not go unappreciated or unnoticed at the negotiating table. Dangling another carrot on a stick, an agreed reduction in personnel on both sides of the demilitarized zone at the 38th parallel would go a long way towards making these plans a reality. The goal here is to hammer out an agreement that will not be abandoned a few years down the line by a self-important dictator hoping for international attention.

The situation is a maddening one to deal with, but punchy rhetoric to appease the war hawks among us does not change the facts of the situation. As it stands on the Korean peninsula, very close to our allies lies a nation that, if invaded or sufficiently starved, would lose nothing in bringing to bear the most powerful weapon in humanity's history against any and all targets of opportunity.

Academy Awards Honor Films Abroad

BY ALINA VORONOV, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With so many persistent journalists surrounding the major stars around Oscar time, it is no surprise that some lesser-known but no less deserving actors get short-changed. For example, Foreign Language nominated films and their stars are almost unheard of by the American public. This is truly a shame since experts and non-experts alike have hailed many of these films as deserving of praise.

One such movie is the Oscar winner "The Sea Inside" ("Mar Adentro"). Filmed by Spanish director Alejandro Amenabar, who some critics say is following award-winning director Pedro Almodovar's footsteps, the movie deals with the powerful theme of love. In addition, the movie broaches controversial topics such as euthanasia. "The Sea Inside" is based on the life of activist Ramon Sampedro and his struggle to end his own suffering after becoming a quadriplegic. The film also focuses on his two friends, one who supports his cause and the other who tries to save Sampedro from what she believes is unnecessary self-destruction. Through his struggle, Sampedro "[teaches] everyone the meaning, value, and preciousness of life." In a moving conclusion, he instills hope in both women and wins their hearts.

The film stars Academy Award Nominee Javier Bardem, whom film critic Stephen Holden of the *New York Times* praises for his "sensitive portrayal" of the paralyzed protagonist. Not only did Bardem have to lie in bed motionless for his role, but he also had to learn Galician, a dialect of Portuguese vastly different from Spanish. "The Sea Inside" also features Lola Dueñas, star of Almodovar's Oscar-winning "Talk to Her," as the woman who fights for Sampedro's life. New to the screen is actress Belen Rueda, who portrays the lawyer supporting Sampedro's decision. Amenabar is no newcomer to the American silver screen;

he also filmed the horror movie "The Others." Sampedro's book "Letters From Hell" provided the inspiration for "The Sea Inside." According to Amenabar, it was "a story definitely worth being told." In struggling to make the work a timeless one, Amenabar attempted not only to present a map of Sampedro's life, but in

well as an impressive 14 Goya Prizes in Spain, a country which has seen its works nominated for the Oscar 19 times.

Notably among other nominees, a film from South Africa was recognized for the first time by the Academy. "Yesterday," from acclaimed director Darrell Roodt ("Place of Weeping," "Sarafina!"), is named



JAVIER BARDEM PORTRAYS QUADRIPELEGIC ACTIVIST RAMON SAMPEDRO IN "THE SEA INSIDE" ("MAR ADENTRO"), THIS YEAR'S ACADEMY AWARD WINNER FOR BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM.

a broader sense to focus on the themes of life and death.

Brian Webster of the *Apollo Guide*, like most critics, has praised Amenabar's grand opus, calling it both memorable and moving. Others have also commented on its "haunting beauty," although some critics, including Holden, pointed out that despite Bardem's stellar performance, the movie "struggles to transcend the disease-of-the-week genre to which it belongs." Several mentioned that the movie is a bit of a tear-jerker, and Shawn Levy of the *Oregonian*, has even ventured to call the film "ordinary." Nevertheless, "The Sea Inside" did nab the Best Foreign Film Academy Award in the United States as

for its protagonist, who, after finding out that she is HIV-positive, is determined to live "to see her [daughter] go to school." When she first seeks medical aid, she is rejected by a hospital that cannot afford to treat her. In her search for help, however, she befriends a man who grows to love her. *The Sunday Times* of South Africa explains why the film may not have won, saying it is "not a film that will please a large audience, [though] it is beautifully made and...tells an important story."

Nine-time Oscar winner France was represented by "The Chorus" ("Les Choristes") directed by Christophe Barlatier. The film tells the story of a music teacher who attempts to help the students

in a strict school for "mischievous" boys. In the end, however, we learn that these boys are not the troublemakers they are initially made out to be. Some have called it "wonderfully uplifting," but Manohla Dargis of *The New York Times* labeled it as "deeply conventional." Walter V. Addiego of the *San Francisco Chronicle* adds that it "says nothing new about its well-worn theme of teacher as deliverer." Following in the same musical vein, Sweden's "As It Is in Heaven" ("Så som i himmelen") directed by Kay Pollack, centers around a conductor. While leading the town chorus, he finds friends, enemies and love, affecting everyone he encounters. Although predictable, the musical has also been called "compelling" by various critics.

Germany, already nominated for the Oscars five times and winning most recently for "Nowhere in Africa" (2002), brought "Downfall" to this year's Oscars. The title here refers to the fall of Nazi Germany and the end of the atrocities committed during World War II. Timothy W. Ryback of *The Wall Street Journal* called the film "a masterpiece of historical accuracy and cinematic drama," while others have criticized Oliver Hirschbiegel's work, whose subject, Hitler, "makes [them] queasy," according to *The New York Daily News*. Its inability to truly take sides could be the trouble with the film, which "straightforwardly depicts Hitler's last days as not to offend."

While it remains a matter of opinion which film is truly the best, what is clear is that all of these foreign creations deserve more attention. They deal with themes relevant to Americans today, such as life, death and love, and many are quite poignant. Hopefully, more attention will turn away from the red carpet gowns of Hollywood starlets, and the public will learn to take an interest in the world of cinema outside the United States.

Additional reporting from theseinside.com, imdb.com, thehollywoodreporter.com, and film-forward.com.

Play It "Reckless"

BY ANDREW KLEIN, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After months of strain and countless hours of rehearsal and planning, the performance date for the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild has finally arrived. Every year, Boston Latin School participates in this prestigious drama competition where schools from all over Massachusetts perform plays in front of a supportive audience and a panel of judges. Boston Latin performed "Reckless" in the preliminary round of the competition at Bourne High School in Cape Cod on March 5, 2005. With memories of last year's production still in the minds of many of the cast members, the members of this year's production had similar aspirations. Another award, however, was not in the cards for Latin. Despite a valiant effort, "Reckless" did not proceed onto the finals.

"I read this play that I had lying around and I loved it," explains director Leah Skahen (I). She chose this play because "the characters are very dynamic, it's different, it's funny, it's witty, and I thought it would bring something fun to the Guild."

The play to which she is referring is a dramatic story that begins on Christmas Eve. Tom, the husband of Rachel, the

main character, confesses to her that he has hired an assassin to kill her that very night. Then, experiencing "a change of heart," he assists Rachel out of a window to flee from the assassin. From there, Rachel encounters and spends Christmas Eve with Lloyd and Pooty, whose secret and troubled pasts are revealed as the play unfolds. Assisting them with their problems, Rachel gradually gains their acceptance and trust. After a fatal reunion with Tom, Rachel grows weary of watching Lloyd drift into depression and alcoholism. She wanders from place to place in search of happiness and mental stability, and goes to Alaska, where she has always wanted to live because "there is Christmas all year round." She is finally united with her own past in a dramatic ending which answers all the unresolved questions.

Though many were confident, it was no easy feat to get to a state of preparation where confidence was warranted. The production process began in December of last year when the actors and technical coordinators were cast. Since then, the production has never seen a day off during the school week and many weekends and vacation days have been spent in rehearsal and preparation.

"RECKLESS"
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Pretty Ugly

BY SILVANA VIVAS, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What if you lived in a world where you were guaranteed to be beautiful and flawless for the rest of your life? It's possible for the protagonist of the moving young adult novel "Uglies," part one of a trilogy by Scott Westerfeld.

Tally Youngblood lives in the futuristic city where every person undergoes extreme cosmetic surgery when he or she turns 16. Tally can't wait to have the surgery so she can finally live in New Pretty Town instead of Uglyville. All the citizens of Uglyville are considered ugly, when they actually look normal. A few weeks before her 16th birthday, Tally makes a new friend named Shay, who isn't sure she wants to become a "Pretty." When Shay runs away, Tally goes out to look for her and discovers in the process a whole new darker side to being pretty, especially when she must choose between beauty and the loyalty to her friend.

This book is one which will interest most teenagers. It is similar in some ways to Lois Lowry's "The Giver," but with a story line teenagers can relate to regarding insecurity with their appearance. The futuristic qualities woven in give the novel a fun twist. There are

hovercars and hoverboards, and most people can't write by hand. The Uglyville inhabitants don't brush their teeth; instead, they just chew a toothbrush pill. The killing of trees is considered cruel and unnecessary. Tally is shocked when she finds out there was something called a newspaper, which are made from trees, read and later thrown out.

One thing readers might like about the book is the way Westerfeld expresses Tally's thoughts. She doesn't just think one way; her mind constantly changes throughout the book. Westerfeld shows Tally's process of thinking, allowing readers to see each situation in different ways. The author also shows us what happens when we are faced with problems, including decisions that need to be made regarding insecurity. Everyone says, "Don't listen to other people, because you're beautiful the way you are," when actually it's much more complicated than that. Tally faces many choices that she must make, despite her constant doubts about what she is doing.

The average rating for this book is five stars, and it has been praised by the Kirkus Reviews and others. This is a story that can be enjoyed by boys and girls alike. Its sudden ending will keep you anxiously waiting for the next two books in the series.

A & E

BLStyle

By COCO & KARL
FASHIONISTAS EXTRAORDINAIRE

It's hard to write a fashion article about trends in a school where style is so varied and unique. There isn't one prevailing style because we all come from different walks of life. This difference, however, doesn't mean that we don't like the same things. Some very noticeable trends are going on, and here are just a few:

- Ugg boots are everywhere, as are all of the knockoffs they have inspired. This trend started last winter and exploded this year. Everyone seems to have a pair of Uggs or at least Fuggs (fake Uggs). This is another one that you can't go into the city without seeing. You either love them or hate them, but either way, they're here to stay... at least until next winter.

- Chandelier and cascade earrings have also become very popular. Girls are wearing everything from huge loops with sparkly stones down to the shoulder to small ones with a few colorful beads. The biggest variety is at Jasmine Sola and if you want one-of-a-kind earrings, find Erin Silva (I) in homeroom 137 for handmade items.



HTTP://CGLBAY.COM

- Finally, something that is a wardrobe staple for both genders is the North Face fleece. Worn as a winter coat with layers or just over a tee-shirt, the fleece can be found at thenorthface.com.

UGG ALTERNATIVES

Are they hot? You decide.

THE MOON BOOT

One might admit their appeal, but sorry, Napoleon, it just isn't working. No one wants to look like a six-year-old from Idaho. Gosh! Flippin' Idiots!



HTTP://WWW.MOONBOOTS.INFO

THE MUKLUK

This is often called the hottest boot in Europe... only because there are no Native Americans to potentially offend! Please don't spend \$400 on shoes that are so impossibly trendy that it would be an embarrassment to wear them next year. Just say no.

SPRING TRENDS

What's making a comeback for spring?

THE FLIP FLOP

Don't fight it. Come the first day of spring (March 20), dozens will be stylin' in their divine flips... predicted forecast: 30 degrees.

THE MINISKIRT

Who said it was out of style? The miniskirt is never out of style. Wear it with flip flops (see above), your Uggs or dress it up with a pair of flats. Keep it classy. (Wearing a shirt is preferred.)

By ATHEENA DY, II
& NATANAELLE ORISMA, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Television is a luxury for students who hold themselves to high standards. As stated in the Boston Latin School agenda book, "The curriculum of the Latin School is diverse and demanding... students are expected to do about three hours of home study every day." With such a heavy burden on our shoulders, it's a miracle that students here have the time to watch. Whether it's catching up with the latest hookups on "One Tree Hill" or following the true story of the seven strangers on "The Real World," students manage to fit in some television viewing time after homework or studying. Must-see TV throughout the week now ranges from racy dramas like "Desperate Housewives" to comedies such as "The Simpsons." With so many shows and options to choose from, we took a look at the choices that BLS students, specifically sixies and seniors, are making.

In a survey of two seventh grade homerooms, 28 males and 30 females were asked to name their favorite shows. Some of the genres mentioned include comedies, sports, crime-fighting, cartoons and science fiction. In general, trends developed in the different genres by gender and age. Female sixies enjoyed watching reality shows more than males; some top programs included were "American Idol," "America's Next Top Model," "The Amazing Race" and "The Simple Life." Male sixies, however, enjoyed crime-fighting and sports more than the females. Examples of such programs included "CSI," "Law and Order," and sports games. Common ground between the two genders could be found in genres such as anime, cartoons and comedy, including shows like "The Simpsons," "Malcolm In The Middle" and "Mad TV." Another trend found was that

age played a minor factor in the types of entertainment programs enjoyed. It is interesting to note that the majority of 13-year-old females preferred watching reality shows, whereas anime and cartoons were more widely watched among 11- and 12-year-olds. As for males, 13-year-olds preferred watching crime-fighting to cartoons and comedies, a change that might be explained by the fact that 13 marks the transition into the teenage years.

When asked why seventh graders enjoyed watching certain programs, Lloyd McKenzie (VI) responded that "they are funny and some... were from books I have read." Another sixthie, Myles Friedman, said, "Because ['24'] is suspenseful and you never know what could happen next and because ['South Park' and 'Family Guy'] are politically incorrect in so many ways." Others like Anne Osborn (VI) believe that "although ['Joey'] is not intellectually stimulating, it's fun to be able to enjoy humor without thinking all the time." Also, she compliments "The Simpsons" on its "oxymoronic humor; its stupidity crosses into the land of brilliance."

As for the senior class, those who watch television in their spare time stated ranges of favorite shows. Out of the 11 seniors who responded, "The O.C." and "One Tree Hill" were obvious favorites. Also widely watched were "The Simpsons"

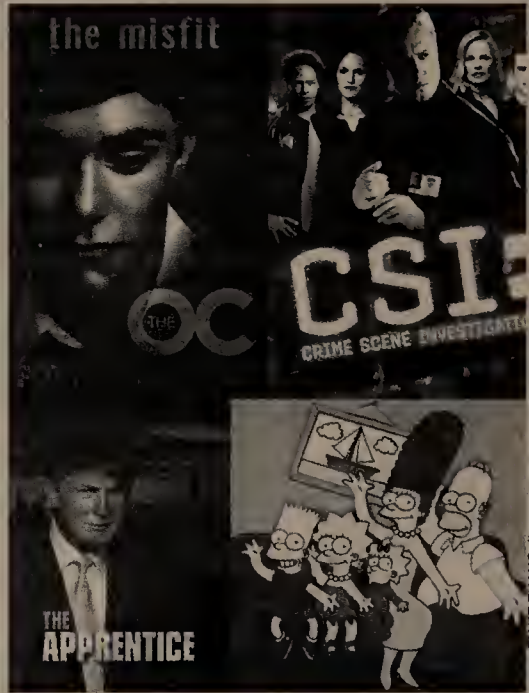
and "Family Guy," but Homer's dysfunctional family was deemed more popular than the baby genius from "Family Guy." Other programs like "The Newlyweds" and "Alias" also had faithful viewers among the senior class. Surprisingly, despite the show's widespread following, FOX's new sensation "American Idol" was not even listed as a watched program.

Alex Smith (I) explains that these shows simply "appeal to me." Others like Josh Speicher (I) love the "toilet humor" of some programs like "South Park" on Comedy Central. Surprise endings also keep many on their toes. With weekly

updates on shows like "The Apprentice," seniors just have to catch up. On the other hand, old programs like "Full House" and "Family Matters" still have followers, making it clear that some favorites are still favorites even after they have become re-runs.

Despite the strenuous workload that Boston Latin students face everyday, they are still able to find time for television viewing. Although the poll

results suggest "One Tree Hill" as a senior class favorite, other runners-up like "The O.C." and "The Apprentice" are not far behind. Among the sixies, classic comedies like "The Simpsons," as well as more recent ones like "Family Guy" remain on top. With endless choices of television programs, students at Latin make tuning in and relaxing not too difficult, even if it means sacrificing their own study time.



BY KE ZHANG, II

Rough Seas for DVD Pirates

By SOUMEY LOR, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Committing piracy is a common crime these days. It is very rare that teenagers would buy a CD or a DVD if given the option of being able to download it. Why pay for something we can get for free or at a reduced price? It is the same song and the same movie; it makes no difference to many people. The music industry has been trying to fight back for years, with everything from the lawsuit against Napster to the ads around Copley Square warning us not to download. The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) has also recently joined the battle. After losing over \$1 billion to people who rent movies, make copies, return and re-sell to make profits, serious action is finally

being taken.

Macrovision is launching "RipGuard DVD" to eliminate the majority of DVD copying. RipGuard will be licensed to studios which are parts of the MPAA. In the past, the Content Scramble System (CSS) was used to prevent piracy but DeCSS, a counterattack, was made available as freeware and shareware on the internet. Once CSS is decoded, the content on the DVD is vulnerable as it is on its way to the "analog hole," making it useless. With RipGuard, it will go right to the source and hit where it hurts. Each title will have a unique format attached to it to eliminate the digital bit stream itself, which should keep Macrovision a step ahead as far as copyright laws are concerned.

Hewlett-Packard and Philips also

have a strategy of their own. Their development, the VCPS format, covers in general all the grounds RipGuard does with only one flaw—it forces consumers to buy a new DVD player. With RipGuard, consumers will be able to use what they already have. The goal is to raise consumer value and encourage people to own DVDs once again. Like all technology, there will be flaws and people will always look for ways to get around paying because they feel entitled to do whatever they wish with the products they buy.

In the end, RipGuard may slow down the bootleg process for a while, but "tech heads" will break the code sooner than you think. Where there is a will, there is a way, and with money on the line, not everyone will allow Macrovision to have the last word.

» RECKLESS
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Ms. Christa Crewdson believed the play to be in very good shape. "The tech crew has a really good handle on the scene changes, which are probably the most critical things. Everybody seems to know what they are doing and the actors... have made some strong character choices." Sound designer and soundboard operator Andrew LeGendre (II) was also very convinced of the play's high quality, saying that the production was "technically sound."

The play features ten phenomenal actors from classes I to III. Brittany Hall's

(III) plays a very "earthy" psychologist who works with the main character Rachel. She described the acting in the play as "one of the main things that pulls us and the play together... We're all working really hard and we all have created characters, so the acting is great." A similar response could be found throughout the cast.

On Saturday, March 5, the entire cast and crew met at school at 5 a.m. and drove up to Bourne to participate in the Drama Guild Festival. It was a long, stressful and highly emotional day, but

just being there brought a sense of joy to its participants. Although Boston Latin and the play "Reckless" did not move past prelims, the hard work of Skahen and the rest of the production's members was definitely apparent and it was surprising to see the play fall short in the competition. For those members of the Boston Latin School community who desired to see the meticulous and masterful effort put into this production, "Reckless" ran for two performances at school on Saturday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 16.

A & E

Faculty Reveal Inner Superstars

BY OLIVIA PAQUETTE, II
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

During one school year alone, Boston Latin students will spend an estimated 8,460 minutes with each one of their teachers, getting to know his or her political ideas, scientific theories or favorite author. But 8,460 minutes may pass by without the student ever discovering the teacher's hidden singing ability or seeing a faculty member wearing anything other than a suit.

It is no surprise then, that the Faculty Fashion/Talent Show drew such a large and curious crowd. The Step Squad fundraiser, held on February 17, 2005, gave teachers the opportunity to show students various aspects of their lives outside the classroom, from their musical talent to their weekend wardrobe. As History teacher Mr. Rashaun Martin says, it allowed students "to see us in a different light...outside the classroom."

Ms. Rachael Skerritt, the advisor for Step Squad who organized the fundraiser, describes it as a way to "see teachers doing something you wouldn't expect." She initially contacted faculty members about participating, and although few responded at first, more began to join when they saw their colleagues participating. Some groups even held practices months beforehand. "It was really a time commitment on the part of the teachers," says Ms. Skerritt. While group acts were planned ahead of time, individual performers came up with the ideas for their own acts.

The individual performers revealed a variety of artistic talents, from Ms. Raquel Jacobson's energetic Spanish dance to Ms. Sandra Williams's inspiring rendition of Whitney Houston's "The Greatest Love



THE "REAL SLIM SHADY": MS. KELLEY POSES WITH LOOK-ALIKES MS. FIGUEROA AND MS. PALMER AT THE FACULTY FASHION/TALENT SHOW, A FUNDRAISER FOR THE BLS STEP SQUAD.

of All." Science teachers Mr. Aaron Osowiecki and Mr. Scott Balicki, who both play guitar, performed in what was dubbed the "Battle of the Icki Brothers." Mr. Balicki did a Bob Dylan piece, while Mr. Osowiecki chose a song by the 80's group Poison. Mr. Balicki admitted that the size of the crowd was intimidating at first, but it turned out to be "a blast."

While showcasing their talents, some alumni teachers had an opportunity to revive the activities of their high school years at Latin. Mr. Martin and Ms. Skerritt, both involved in Show Choir as students, were reunited in the Faculty Choir. Mr. Martin said the experience "brought back memories." Four members

of the Faculty Jazz Band - Ms. Kathleen Bateman, Mr. Michael Giordano, Ms. Skerritt and Mr. Jesse Southwick - had participated in band and were led by Mr. William Harper, a band conductor at the time. Mr. Harper calls it "very gratifying" to see that students he taught "still retain a love of music" and skill, even though they have "branched out to different areas." Depending on time constraints, the Faculty Jazz Band may come back together to play at Music Night this spring.

For Ms. Wendy Holm of the History Department, the Fashion/Talent Show was an opportunity to reverse her role

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"Baby" Not Worth A Million

BY JULIA RYAN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Critics have called it the "best movie of the year." Having taken home the little gold man for "Best Picture," "Best Actress," "Best Director" and "Best Supporting Actor," "Million Dollar Baby" is this year's "Oscar Champion." It received "Best Actress" from the Golden Globe Awards and "Best Director" in the New York Film Critics Circle. The list of honors goes on and on, but I do not remember being so disappointed since seeing "The Stepford Wives." While it would be a lie to say that "Million Dollar Baby" was a bad movie, viewers would find it wise to take their money elsewhere if they are looking for an original story.

One of the few unique aspects of "Million Dollar Baby" is the extraordinary acting. Best Actress Oscar winner Hillary Swank plays a 31-year-old waitress, Maggie Fitzgerald, who has spent her entire life living on a shoestring while trying to rise above her trailer trash family. She turns to boxing to rid herself of physical and emotional vulnerability. Her dream trainer is Frankie Dunn (Clint Eastwood), a lonely elderly man who refuses to train girls. He has no family save an estranged daughter, and when Frankie's star boxer leaves him, his good friend Scrap (Morgan Freeman) persuades him to take her on.

The most moving part of "Million Dollar Baby" is the relationship between Frankie and Maggie. Unlike most recent movies, "Million Dollar Baby" does not

have any love affairs or sexual relationships. Instead, it focuses on family relationships. Both Frankie and Maggie are missing a loving family in their lives. Unexpectedly, Frankie, reminded of his estranged daughter, becomes emotionally attached to Maggie. Maggie, whose father left when she was young, lacks a good father figure, and they share the touching and tender platonic relationship



CLINT EASTWOOD AND HILARY SWANK BATTLE IT OUT.

that is the redeeming part of "Million Dollar Baby."

Swank won her Oscar thanks to her powerful portrayal of Maggie's hostile yet loving personality. In addition, she also gave an impressive boxing performance. Morgan Freeman, who won "Best Supporting Actor," played Scrap, Frankie's best friend and narrated the movie. These performances made "Million Dollar Baby" a good movie, but good is not the same as "Best Picture."

To be frank, "Million Dollar Baby" was excruciatingly long. Though only two hours and 17 minutes, this one seemed to never end. A long movie can be good

when a viewer can become totally immersed in a character but not enough time was spent describing the characters that mattered. When I could not feel a strong connection to Maggie or Frankie, I lost the patience needed to enjoy the whole movie.

Another bothersome aspect of "Million Dollar Baby" was its predictable underdog sports plot that turns tragic at the climax. There have been many recent movies along these lines—"Miracle" and "Remember the Titans" are prime examples. When Maggie jogs down the beach, you can almost hear the "Rocky" theme in the background.

The most irritating thing about "Million Dollar Baby" is its similarity to Eastwood's previous creation "Mystic River." This movie is much less thought out and nowhere near as enjoyable to watch (although neither is really enjoyable, both being

too melancholy). To put it bluntly, "Million Dollar Baby" may be more enjoyable if viewers have not seen "Mystic River." Also, the controversy surrounding the ending of "Million Dollar Baby" deals with a politically incorrect subject, yet shows the viewer a different point of view, another redeeming aspect.

Viewers who want to see "Million Dollar Baby" for the prestige of the Academy Awards will be disappointed, and if you're looking for a unique story, do not waste your money. A far safer bet is "Mystic River," but if you still want to find out for yourself, consider yourself warned.

Spotlight

Andrew Slotnick



BY MEGAN PITTS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You may have heard him playing his sultry jazz licks in the BLS Big Band, seen him on stage at Battle of the Bands, or noticed him banging and humming incessantly during class. In addition to the everyday grind of Boston Latin School, Andrew Slotnick always finds a way to devote his time to the arts. His dedication, commitment, great attitude and excellent musical skills form an integral part of the Boston Latin music program.

Andrew took piano lessons from age seven to 16, and he took up alto saxophone at Latin School in the seventh grade. He and a few selected others were given the opportunity to play with the eighth grade band a year early. In the eighth grade, Andrew switched to the richer tones of the tenor saxophone, and his musical career took off from there. He joined Mr. Harper's saxophone quartet, which grew into a full-fledged jazz ensemble, where he was able to develop his saxophone skills as well as overall musicality. This was Andrew's first experience with Jazz improvisation.

In the ninth grade, Andrew played keyboard for *Little Shop of Horrors*, a Boston Latin Drama musical. He and his friends also formed the funk band Chronic Funk Syndrome (CFS), a group of talented musicians who plan to make their third appearance at this year's Battle of the Bands.

In sophomore year, by special request of Mr. Pitts, Andrew joined the Latin School Big Band, where he began playing first tenor sax. As a featured soloist on the tenor in the award-winning Big Band, Andrew has been an essential part of its success. Recently, he has honed his skill with the clarinet, as he demonstrated at the BLS Holiday Concert.

In addition to strutting his own stuff, Andrew dedicates himself to creating opportunities for other Latin School musicians. He has accompanied several groups including the Flute Ensemble, Show Choir, Gospel Choir and Beautiful Ladies of Soul. During the recent production of BLS Idol, Andrew spent a great deal of time planning, video editing, directing the band and accompanying the singers on piano and sax. He also worked countless hours behind the scenes to ensure that the show was flawless. His newest project with business partner Dominic French (II) is Slotnick and French Music Productions (S&F), which seeks to spread the word about Latin School musicians and help them get gigs.

Outside of school, Andrew has participated twice with a full scholarship in both Berklee's five-week summer program and the Berklee City Music Program, the latter of which recently opened for Chaka Khan.

Although Andrew intends to study computer science in college, music will always be an important part of his life. If all else fails, he plans to transfer to Berklee and pursue music full-time. If you ever need a tenor sax player, Andrew is always available to play. You can usually find him in the music wing—just follow the sound.

A & E

Teachers Strut With Style



FACULTY STEP TO THE BEAT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MS. SKERRITT (FIRST ROW, SECOND FROM RIGHT).

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Department, the Fashion/Talent Show was an opportunity to reverse her role and experience an activity usually limited to students. Ms. Holm, who runs Public Declamation and advises the Speech Team, decided to show her own talent at declaiming. Her experience in public speaking dates back to her high school years, when she competed on her own school's speech team. In preparing for the show, she faced the same difficulty as most students: finding a piece. Ms. Holm finally picked a poem that had an appropriate theme. Her introduction related the poem, Mary Oliver's "The Summer Day," to the idea of passion, which Ms. Holm says is exhibited by public declaimers and teachers alike.

While the Fashion/Talent Show allowed many to display their hidden talents and hobbies, it was also a chance to try something new. English teacher Ms. Yolanda Spencer, who had no previous experience in stepping, joined the Faculty Step Squad and discovered that "it's



SCIENCE TEACHER MR. SOUTHWICK PERFORMS A SOULFUL SOLO IN FACULTY JAZZ BAND.

fun to do." Although their smooth performance made stepping look easy, Ms. Spencer says that it takes great "practice and dedication." The experience gave her a "greater appreciation for the kids who

do it." Ms. Meredith Elliott, who teaches History, also tried stepping for the first time, and calls Ms. Skerritt, who led the Faculty Step Squad, "a great teacher".

Activities involving faculty and students, including this show and the Faculty-Student Basketball game, help create a "different type of bond between teachers and students, [which is] always healthy," says Mr. Martin. In addition to enjoying the faculty's various talents, students got a chance to see their teachers in non-professional attire during the Fashion segment. Faculty members modeled their own clothing in categories such as sportswear and evening wear, and Mr. Jim Montague, Ms. Sandra Berenson, and Ms. Elaine Sylvester of the guidance department modeled their weekend wear. For Mr. Montague, this consisted of pajamas and a bathrobe, which his wife calls his "winter uniform." Mr. Malcolm Flynn was also among the faculty models, clad in "dungarees" with a cowboy hat and boots. "I do own these clothes and I have worn them before," he affirms, although



ASSISTANT HEAD MASTER MR. FLYNN MODELS HIS COWBOY HAT AND DUNGAREES.

he admits that the outfit is probably not one he would wear every weekend.

The Faculty Fashion/Talent show had a huge turnout of more than 500 people, raising over \$2,500 for the Step Squad. The money will be used to pay for uniforms and will cover yearly dues to the Greater Boston Step Association. Ms. Skerritt, along with other teachers who performed in the show, was surprised and impressed by the support which students showed to the teachers. The enthusiastic response of the audience was "rock-star" level, she says. However, students who were not among that audience should not despair. Ms. Skerritt hopes to hold another faculty show in the future and she is "already brainstorming ways to top this year."

"Jack and Bobby:" Before the White House

BY YUCONG MA, II
A&E EDITOR

If America could have seen George W. Bush during his childhood, chances are that history would not have been the same. Then he may have won by a landslide or failed even to gain the Republican nomination in 2000, depending on one's political point of view. A new family drama on the WB network has taken this premise and set it in modern day Missouri, where a single mother is raising her two boys. One of them will become the president of the United States in 2040.

In retrospect, "Jack and Bobby" is an appropriate collaboration for executive producers Greg Berlanti, Mickey Liddell and Thomas Schlamme, the masterminds behind "Everwood," "Dawson's Creek" and "The West Wing," respectively. Hart, Missouri is the home of Grace McCallister (Christine Lahti), unconventional college professor, liberal feminist, unrepentant hippie and last but not seemingly least, loving mother of Jack and Bobby. Her eldest son, Jack McCallister (Matt Long), is used to helping out his younger sibling when their cynical and single-minded mother takes her nature-not-nurture philosophy to the extreme. However, Bobby McCallister (Logan Lerman) is no shrinking violet; he is a curious and bright eighth grader whose uncommon faith and strength of character will give him his future nickname as the next great president of the United States, "The Great Believer." Supporting characters include Peter Benedict (John Slattery), the new president of Grace's

university, acting as both her boss and a strange love interest, and his daughter Courtney (Jessica Paré), the new girl in town who captures Jack's attention. Marcus Ride (Edwin Hodge) also plays a pivotal role as Jack's best friend as the McCallister brothers mature in 21st-century America.

The acting behind this production is spectacular, and a major part of what draws viewers back week after week. Christine Lahti is perfect as the sharp-witted, hypocritical mother whose intensely private past and semi-dictatorial policies about parenting drives both Jack and Bobby to the edge of exasperation and frustration. Aside from hiding her character's addiction as a closet pot smoker, Lahti also displays Grace's tenacity in concealing the identity of the children's father from Bobby's curiosity. Matt Long flawlessly pulls off the role of a popular high-school track star with his cheerleader girlfriend Missy Belknap (Keri Lynn Pratt), while displaying a tender side to Jack's somewhat indifferent attitude when he befriends an outsider after breaking up with Missy. The most complex character of them all, however, is that of Bobby McCallister. The role is a formidable challenge for actor Logan Lerman, who previously appeared as Ashton Kutcher's younger self in "The Butterfly Effect." While Lerman is talented for his age and handles Bobby's personality with grace, he occasionally swerves too sharply between being the small adult that his mother has raised him to be and a 13-year-old social misfit who longs for approval from his peers.

The trials that Bobby faces form the backbone and theme for each episode of "Jack and Bobby." Told mainly in the form of flashbacks, the show includes snippets of interviews from the future chief-of-staff of President McCallister, First Lady Courtney McCallister, journalists, rivals and senators who recount his rise and incidents during his administration. Bit by bit, pieces of the puzzle of President McCallister come together. After an episode about one of Grace's students, a young Muslim woman, Bobby is motivated to search for religion, much to his atheist mother's dismay. The episode ends with an unexpected curve ball: Bobby will become a minister before running for state office. Not every plot is woven around Bobby, however. One notable episode recounts the story of Jack's ex-best friend, a fellow track runner who develops a crush on Jack and ends his life out of desperation, convinced that his religiously strict parents will never accept him. Yet another involves Grace in top form, leading a rally for the Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, bringing today's politics into the small screen with startling results. Mother-son conflict is in the works when Bobby feels an affinity for the Republican Party, proving that "Jack and Bobby" is not just for Democrats.

Like many television shows involving teenagers, this plot is by no means lacking in high-school drama, but its connection to the nearby university campus provides growth for more mature themes like faculty-student relationships. In addition, there is much character growth

in "Jack and Bobby." Everyone learns a lesson as the backdrop of current politics continues to develop. Grace cuts some slack to a graduate teaching assistant because she is a single mother, only to be disappointed by the discovery of plagiarism in her papers. Meanwhile, Jack finds himself going beyond the typical jock stereotype by taking on a job and starting a new relationship with a social outcast of sorts. During his own search, Bobby forms a new relationship with his mother's employer, Peter, who caters to Bobby's desire for a father figure, while Courtney emerges from a humiliating relationship with a college fraternity student.

These aspects are merely small facets of the revolutionary new take on family drama which distinguishes "Jack and Bobby." The show tackles religious and social controversial issues with fervor. The changing composition of mainstream America is reflected in its fragmented family and politically-charged atmosphere, two elements which help "Jack and Bobby" surpass a genre predecessor, "Seventh Heaven." This drama has earned its label as one of the best new shows of the year, despite its lack of suspense and fantasy, both prized by viewers of "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives." Instead, "Jack and Bobby" offers a solution to America's current political turmoil with insight into the life of a future president, answering the age-old question: "What is greatness?"

"Jack and Bobby" can be seen on the WB network every Wednesday at 9/8 CST with reruns on Sunday at 6/5 CST.

Students Beat Faculty 50-48 in Annual Game

BY PAUL POKASKI, II
STAFF WRITER

There was much anticipation as game-time approached for the third annual Students vs. Faculty Basketball Game. With bragging rights at stake for both sides, it was sure to be another close, exciting game. The students packed the gym and there was a buzz in the air. After the Wolfettes' rendition of the National Anthem, it was time for the opening tip.

The teachers came out overly excited. For the first few minutes, the faculty played sloppy basketball, turned the ball over frequently and allowed the students to start the game on a 10-2 run.

After a time-out, the teachers calmed down and outplayed the students for the rest of the half. Junior Varsity basketball coach Brendan Smith provided most of the offense, eventually pulling the faculty into the lead. The tide first started to shift when Mr. Aaron Osowiecki entered the game and dominated at both ends of the court. The teachers kept the pace up and went into half-time with a 29-23 lead.

The Boston Latin School Step Squad provided the half-time entertainment as the teams prepared for the second half. When the game resumed, the students began to chip away at the lead the teachers had built. Finally, midway through the half, the students evened the score at 37 and then took the lead. The game remained close until the end. Mr. Rashaun Martin provided some of the offense for the faculty squad with seven points, but again, it was Mr. Osowiecki who, with his low post presence and timely scoring, kept the faculty within striking distance.

As the game wound down, the students clung to their lead despite Mr. Osowiecki's heroics. The students had a two-point lead with seconds left, but the faculty would not go down without a fight. Mr. Osowiecki stole an inbound pass underneath the hoop and went to lay it in. It bounced around the rim, looked like it was going in, but rolled out, causing the packed crowd to let out a sigh of frustration. The students grabbed the rebound and tried to take it down court. They stepped out of bounds, however, and turned the ball over, this time with 14 seconds left. The ball went to Coach Smith, who missed. After getting the rebound, the students tried to go the length of the court, but again they lost the rock. With five seconds left, the ball was once



more in Coach Smith's hands, but it did not go in. Time expired. The students were victorious.

With no real star on the team, the victory was a team effort for the students. Adam Fleischer (II) provided a lot of the offense, but it was Olajide "Junior" Ogunipe (VI) who stole the show. Although he did not put up the biggest stats, he wowed spectators with his style of play. The crowd went absolutely nuts when he made a key basket in the second half.

For the teachers, the Science Department faculty were the stars. Mr. Scott Balicki, Mr. Jesse Southwick and Mr. Osowiecki dominated on the inside. Mr. Osowiecki was the crowd's choice for most valuable player. As the game's high scorer with 19 points, he recorded a double-double with his excellent work on the boards. After the game, he credited his teammates, but lashed out at the referees.

All in all, the game was a success, an exciting contest until the very end. Students packed the gym, filling it to near capacity. The event raised a lot of money and everyone had a good time.



TOP: ADAM FLEISCHER (II) PROVES WHY HE DESERVES AN A IN PHYSICS BY CROSSING UP BOTH OF HIS PHYSICS TEACHERS.

ABOVE: MR. OSOWIECKI DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF THROUGHOUT THE GAME FOR HIS ENERGETIC PLAYING STYLE.

Patriots Have Extreme Makeover

BY PAUL POKASKI, II
STAFF WRITER

It still seems like just yesterday. Rodney Harrison intercepts a desperation pass by Donovan McNabb, starting a celebration spanning six states, as Bill Belichick embraces his assistant coaches Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weiss for one last time.

Fast-forward to present. Just weeks after their historic triumph in Jacksonville, the off-season is in full swing, as the Patriots have already made some big moves. Most notable is the release of three-time Pro-Bowler Ty Law. In his 10 years with the Patriots, he helped the team reach four Super Bowls, of which they won three. While the move may be disappointing to most fans, it should not have come as a surprise. With a whopping \$12.5 million to count against the team's salary

cap, it would have been nearly impossible to find the money to fit in an extension for Tom Brady. One shocking move was the cutting of wide receiver/cornerback Troy Brown. Brown has been on the team forever, and although there is a possibility he could be re-signed, releasing him was a surprising move. The Patriots also want to keep other key free agents. The contracts of Adam Vinatieri, Joe Andruzzi, David Patten, Jarvis Green and David Givens all expired after the season.

Joe Andruzzi and David Patten are already gone. Andruzzi followed former defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel to Cleveland, and Patten went to Washington to make up for Lavernious Coles's trade to the Jets. Jarvis Green and David Givens are restricted free agents, meaning the Patriots have the right to match any offer they receive. No progress has been made yet, but do not expect them to leave

the defending champions.

While they have had many notable achievements with the Patriots, the team's biggest losses may not be the players who leave. Defensive Coordinator Romeo Crennel left the Patriots' sidelines to become head coach of the Cleveland Browns and Offensive Coordinator Charlie Weiss is leaving the Pats for South Bend, Indiana, to coach the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. These vital members of Bill Belichick's staff are surely to be missed.

The Patriots have also made a notable acquisition. After losing Ty Law, the Patriots added some depth in the defensive backfield. In a trade with Arizona, the Patriots obtained cornerback Duane Starks in exchange for a third round draft pick. His most notable achievement happened in Super Bowl XXXV against New York, when he intercepted a Kerry Collins pass and returned it for touchdown.

The Patriots very rarely make a major move in free agency. Instead, they usually obtain their players through the NFL draft. One area to look for is offensive guard. The Patriots have already lost one of their starting guards, Andruzzi, and their other starter, ex-wrestler Stephen Neal, is free to flee as well. However, during his five drafts with the team, Coach Belichick has never selected an offensive guard in any round.

Whatever the problem, Patriots fans are not worried. The consensus seems to be that the coach knows what is best for the team, since he does have three Super Bowl championships on his résumé. Also, the core of the offense is staying put; Tom Brady and Corey Dillon are not going anywhere anytime soon. Knowing this, it would be tough to deny that the Patriots are the favorites to win Super Bowl XL in Detroit.

SPORTS

Sports Spotlight

Caroline Sullivan



BY CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS LTD

BY MELISSA GILMORE, I
& LINDY MCGRAIL, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dedication is the first word that comes to mind when someone mentions the name Caroline Sullivan. Whether it's on the softball field, the basketball court or studying in the library, Caroline's commitment is always evident. Ever since she was a little girl, and still today, Caroline has shown her athletic ability and leadership skills through the many sports teams for which she has played.

Her athletic career began as soon as she was able to walk. Starting at a young age, she took dance lessons and played soccer, basketball and softball. In the third grade, Caroline began playing basketball at the West Roxbury Community Center and soon made the Parkway Travel team where her speed and enthusiasm were apparent. At this time, Caroline also started playing softball competitively. She joined the St. Theresa's Catholic Youth Organization softball team where she discovered her love for the game. She was also selected to play for Little League Softball and the Boston Cougars teams. The dedication and effort Caroline put into these teams helped her build a strong foundation for when she came to tryouts for the Boston Latin teams.

In the seventh grade, Caroline chose to focus on the two sports she was most passionate about: basketball and softball. She made both the freshman basketball team and Junior Varsity softball team as a sixie, and was recognized as a tough player and future leader of the Latin School athletics. In the eighth grade, she made the JV basketball team and through her drive and talent, she was chosen as a co-captain her sophomore year. As a junior and senior, Caroline played as a member of the varsity team, adding her valuable defensive skills. This coming spring marks Caroline's final season as a priceless member of the softball team. Playing on Varsity since the ninth grade, her loyalty to the game has led her to the position of captain for the second consecutive year. In her junior year, she was chosen to be a Dual County League All-Star. Traveling nearly an hour every Sunday to play in an off season indoor league has helped her to prepare for the difficult season to come. Maura Donnelly (I), her teammate, states that Caroline is a great captain. She leads both on and off the field and her constant support and hard work never go unnoticed.

Not only is Caroline an outstanding athlete, she is also an excellent student. She has made approbation numerous times throughout the years and was recently inducted into the National Honors Society, an accomplishment few are able to achieve. She is an active member of the St. Theresa's CYO and the vice-president of the Boston Latin Irish Historical Society. In addition to all these activities and attributes, Caroline is one of the most pleasant and genuine person you will ever meet. She's a great friend, a diligent student and an exceptional athlete; all in all, she is a unique individual that Boston Latin School is fortunate to have.

Dedham Ends Girls' Hockey Hopes

BY THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off a state championship just three years earlier, the girls' hockey team was looking to duplicate that impressive feat. They started at the top this year with a number one ranking for much of the early season until they were finally defeated by Everett. That one loss didn't deter their perseverance for the goal of finishing first in the state. They continued to push ahead, despite dropping in rankings, and managed to earn a number seven seed in the Division I tournament. The 'Pack blew past number ten seeded Fontbonne 8-0 in the first round, but unfortunately, after Fontbonne, was the number two seeded Dedham girls in the quarter finals.

The two teams were closely matched. Defense was the strength of both teams and each team's goalie was in no way underachieving. The first period was a defensive struggle, as continuous scoring attempts were thwarted by both teams. Ann Marie Elvin (IV) made several superb defensive stops, which she followed up with great stick handling to work her way down the ice. Despite these quick rushes and the general offensive attack, however, they couldn't break away at the Dedham goalie. Finally, late in the period, Dedham scored, breaking through the barrier that goalie Siobhan Elvin (VI) had set up.

The second period took a quick turn for the worse as Dedham cashed in another goal in the first couple minutes, making the deficit 2-0 in favor of Dedham. Captain Katie Balaconis (I) had a great scoring opportunity, as well as other Latin scoring attempts, stuffed by the Dedham goalie. The beginning of the third period began much like the second, as Dedham put in a power play goal quickly to stretch their lead to 3-0. But the Wolfpack never gave up. Captain Amy Kotowski (II) put BLS on the board with 10:54 left.

For the rest of the game, the Latin



SIOBHAN ELVIN (VI) ALL OVER THE PUCK IN THE FIRST PERIOD

COURTESY OF THE BOSTON GLOBE

offense picked up the pace and launched shots from all over. It was a team effort as Ann Marie Elvin, Katie Balaconis, Kathleen Roche (IV), Amy Kotowski, Jill Mahoney (II), Samantha Morrissey (II), scoring expert and captain Catherine Foley (I) and others all fired away at the Dedham goalie, but to no avail. Even as the final seconds of their exciting season wound down, the Wolfpack gave it their all: Liz Balaconis (II) unloaded an echoing hit on a Dedham defender in an effort to knock the puck loose for one more shot.

Although they fell short of their ultimate goal of winning the state championship, not all was lost. "We wanted to go undefeated, but with each loss comes a lesson," says Liz Balaconis. With only two seniors leaving, in Katie Balaconis and Foley, the team is looking ahead to an experienced crew of younger players. As the team is already extremely talented, well coached by Marty McDonough and hungry for more, next year should bring even bigger things.

Indoor Track Team Resigns

BY BO SHANG, II
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin School track program has not been considered a serious sport for the past several years by many students; myself included. It has been generally thought of as something that one could just join to get an easy varsity letter. The 2004-2005 boys' track program, however, was full of reforms, trials, and tribulations. Participation for the track team was at an all time high with an unexpected outburst of interest, which allowed coaches Pritchard, McCollum and Taylor to make a universal cut of non-committing athletes for the first time in recent years. Perhaps it was this boom in participation that influenced Coach Pritchard to enact strict attendance rules this season. As the season progressed, she cut even more people for not attending practice despite some having legitimate reasons to miss practice. At the end of the season, there were about 25 percent of the original participants remaining according to Andrew Chin (II). Many students thought that Coach Pritchard went too far. "A girl started crying after she was not allowed to participate in the DCL championships because she went on the Facing History trip. I thought that was very unfair," declared a student who wished to remain anonymous. "It's not

fair; it was [only] that one time, but if they did it [for] a while, then it would be [fair]," confirmed Abenet Ghebremichael (II). Almost every Class II athlete quit the team with a month remaining in the season. An angry ex-track member who also wanted to remain anonymous announced "[Pritchard] is [unfair], you need to suck up to her, that's why I quit. I was genuinely sick one day, so I told her that I couldn't run that day. She responded [with] 'get out of my office.' This really [angered me]." When asked why he didn't join the team, Sean Ajewole (II) responded, "My feelings towards the BLS sports system is that of disgust. It just makes me feel bad to see kids with talent not being used to their full potential."

Of course there are two sides to every story. Mike Schwartz (IV) stated in defense of Coach Pritchard, "For the last few seasons, we had a lot of problems that we wanted to get rid of," in reference to the spotty attendance of some track team members. "She was just trying to make a good team, they were just lazy," said Shawn Le (III).

Despite all the controversy and distractions, the team was still able to pull off two wins, finishing with a 2-10 record. They were led by Robert Deegan (II) who won the two mile race in the Dual County League Championships and was also the only member to be seated in the Boys'

Invitational. When asked if he had high expectations for next season, he responded with "You don't have to wait until next season. We are going to be really good in outdoors track this year." The team is in good hands for the next two years. A group of sophomores including Alan Mui, Shawn Le, Duc Doan, Sean Rabe and Simon Lum provide the foundation for a successful meet. Ghebremichael and Schwartz also provide a threat at long distance. These young talents could very well hold their own against the opponent, while new gifted athletes would rack up the points for the Latin School.

Coach Pritchard may or may not realize that in the future, it will be more difficult to be as strict as she was this year; nevertheless, there is hope that talented athletes will join boys' track next year. Boston Latin School track has great potential; the program, however, must rid itself of the title of being a "joke team" first. There are many ways to do this without causing controversy, for example basing a cut partially on talent as opposed to attendance only. With all the young talent on boys' track, all predictions point to a successful and entertaining season in the 2005-2006 school year, so stay tuned!

Solid Season for Boys' Hockey

By CAROLINE SULLIVAN, I
STAFF WRITER

This season has been a great one for the boys' hockey team. After going undefeated in league play (8-0-2) and boasting an overall record of 14-1-5, the boys were seeded second in the Division II South bracket for the State Tournament. The Wolfpack handily defeated Nauset by a score of 10-4 in the quarterfinals of the tournament. Tommy DeRosa (II), a League All-Star had four goals is the victory, while Greg Gallante (I) scored two goals. Richie Karski (I), Ryan Collins (II), Billy Doogan (I) and League All-Star Tim Sharek (II) each added a goal.

Leading up to the tournament, the boys had a strong second half of the season. Out of the last 11 games, the Wolfpack won 10 of them and tied once with Acton-Boxboro, a tough MVC/DCL opponent. Contributing to the long win streak were outstanding defense by Tom Regan (III) and captain Sean O'Brien (I), both League All-Stars, and excellent

goal-keeping by John Bruno (I), another All-Star. Many members of the team contributed to the strong offensive effort, but one player in particular, Jimmy Ennis (II), the MVC/DCL Player of the Year and League All-Star, demonstrated his uncanny ability to put the puck in the net. The return of Assistant Captain Paul Hynes (I), who missed the first half of the season due to injury, added moral support to the team and to the defensive line, which helped the Wolfpack to go undefeated in the second half of the season. On the return of his assistant captain, O'Brien says, "This truly was the Year of the Hynes."

Another factor contributing to the success of the team has been its large fan support. In addition to the usual parents and family members, many students have been attending the hockey games, namely the Paul Hynes Superfans. At the quarterfinal game against Nauset, about 30 loyal fans made the long journey down to Cape Cod to cheer on the Wolfpack.

The high point of the regular season

came during the game against league opponent Lincoln-Sudbury. The Wolfpack won 5-0, which clinched the League Championship title for the team. Says O'Brien, "I think the season was very successful. It's nice as a senior to go out on top and win something, like we did with the League. Whatever the outcome in the state tournament, I'm going to have some fond memories."

One League Championship. One League Coach of the Year. One League Player of the Year. Six League All-Stars. What is missing? A State Championship title. The boys need only to win three more games to complete this already successful season. When asked his feelings on the season, Regan, only a sophomore, felt compelled to quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." With the way the season has been going thus far, it looks as if a State Championship may very well be within reach for our beloved hockey boys!

Wolfpack Wrestling Expands

By RON BOWER, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year's Boston Latin School wrestling team was one of the best the school has ever seen. Coached by Jeff Gibbons, former All-State champion from Boston College High School, the Wolfpack worked their way to become the 52nd best team in the state (masswrestling.com). Furthermore, wrestling generated more interest this year than ever before. The team has expanded to 25 members, including four girls: Katherine Ramey (I), Jen Chan (II), Giselle Eng (III) and Ashley Pereira (III). From the beginning of December through February, the Wolfpack trained hard in the lower gym: perfecting moves, learning strategies and becoming stronger. The team had to bear through a series of runs, jumps, weights, push-ups, move techniques and spin drills.

According to Gibbons, the team's leaders were his "Starting Six": Nathan Allukian (I), Steve Armandt (I), Jay O'Brien (I), Mohammed Vandt (I), James Roarty (II) and Ben Speicher (III). The six were

the starters because they had shown that they enjoyed the sport, worked for it, and were good at it.

After posting barely 10 wins last season, Vandt improved his record to 24-13. Roarty, who was dubbed "Twenty" after telling his coach in pre-season that he was going to get 20 wins this year, went 25-15. Both he and Vandt placed fifth at sectionals and went on to win a match at states. In addition, Speicher (20-10), the 130-pounder who has been a starter for two years, placed fourth at sectionals and also won a match at states despite being unhealthy this season.

For the past two years, team captains Allukian (25-2), Armandt (27-13) and O'Brien (38-10) have been considered league threats and it's no surprise: Allukian and O'Brien were both sectional champions while Armandt placed fourth. Heading into the State Tournament, all three were expected to make it to All-States. Early on, however, the Wolfpack ran into problems. Armandt, who had beaten an All-State qualifier among many other top competitors, was eliminated

from the competition after losing both his matches. Allukian came into the tournament with his sight set on becoming a state champion, but disaster struck. In his first match, Allukian was put into a headlock and lost via pin. Then the 171-pounder scored a win after dominating and eventually pinning his second opponent. Unfortunately, Allukian was eliminated, losing by one point in his final match. O'Brien represented the Wolfpack for the 119-pound division. He scored enough wins to place fourth in States and move on to the All-State tournament. O'Brien, however, lost both of his matches, effectively ending the season.

Though the foundation of the Boston Latin team is crumbling with the departure of four of the "Starting Six," captains Roarty and Speicher are ready to carry the weight of next season. However, they are not alone in their quest for success. Look for Mike Baskin (III), Navid Heravi (III), Victor Muñoz (III), Ryan Thompkins (III), Garo Yessayan (III), Sam Brenner (V) and Greg McQuaid (V) to turn heads next year.

Successful Basketball Falls Short

By SAM AKIBA, I
SPORTS EDITOR

After two years together, the current boys' basketball team has finally played its last game. It is the end of an era. The culmination of their efforts came with an unpleasant 72-48 loss to Acton-Boxboro, which has had Latin's number recently, in the second round of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association post-season tournament. The team has had an unfortunate streak of 0-6 against A-B, which included two post-season match-ups. The last victory only occurred after a junior varsity game in which Eliot Cohen (I) hit a dramatic half court buzzer beater to pull ahead.

A-B took a quick 12-0 lead to start the game and Latin never recovered. Dan Salvo and Kyle Jackson, Dual County League MVPs, of the Colonials led their team in the impressive victory, much to the Wolfpack's dismay. The dominance by A-B came as a surprise, since the previous match-ups had been extremely close. In addition to the sudden poor

showing, the game was the first where Latin had lost by more than five points. The Wolfpack was simply outplayed and out-coached by the Colonials.

The team as a whole was put into a state of shock, and for the nine seniors on the roster, the realization of there being no tomorrow still hasn't settled. Reggie Aloudiar (I) put it bluntly, "It is just setting in that it is all over," and his sentiment was seconded by guard Charles Maneikis (I) when he said, "It sucks that there is no next year to look forward to."

Although the Varsity team faltered at moments, the JV team held its own, finishing with a strong record of 14-6. With the varsity team losing nine seniors, it will likely dip into the pool of talent just waiting to burst onto the big scene. Sophomore Gregory Maneikis, who managed to put up minutes for varsity this year, has shown the excellent potential to step up and become one of the team's leading scorers next year. Pat Poulin (II) had an fine season and is looking to become Latin's best player going into next season. Matt Stone (II) and

David Lane (II), who served as backups to 1000-point scorer Nick Michel (I), are ready to step in and provide a nice platoon at the five spot. Adam Fleischer (II), who held his own on JV, should also be successful on the Varsity team.

Despite the sudden and catastrophic end, in retrospect, this was a competitive, determined and talented team. While some disappointment accompanies a season with only 13 wins and a second round exit, this group of guys deserves plenty of credit. They had a great relationship on and off the court and have been playing together since they were young. Michel said, "I couldn't have asked for better teammates. We could have done better, but what are you going to do?" After all is said and done, there is no way they can be labeled as failure. In a very competitive league, they made their mark and played with effort and hustle. Their accomplishments should not be downplayed amidst the disappointing end of the season. After all, promising talent is sure to arrive. Who knows, next year could hold better cards and a victory over Acton-Boxboro.

Sports Spotlight

Nick Michel



By MARC TANGVIK, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last summer, I went to Cape Cod for a weekend with the Michel family. Over the two very enjoyable days, I made a discovery: Nick, his two brothers and his father Jom make up a pretty competitive family. Nick's competitive edge is one of his driving characteristics, so when I blew a game of Bocce on the trip, he got pretty mad at me.

The place, however, where Nick can truly show his competitive side is on the basketball court. As you might have noticed by glancing at the *Globe* or *Herald*, Nick's name and photo have popped up on several occasions. One of the reasons was the impressive milestone of 1,000 points for his Varsity basketball career. A certainly remarkable accomplishment, Nick's scoring has greatly contributed to the success of the team. There are other achievements, however, that have proven Nick's skills. Nick has shown to be a great individual player: he was voted Dual County League All-Star three years in a row, League MVP his junior year and league-leading scorer during his senior campaign. Moreover, Nick shows his captain leadership by putting the team first, and is only truly happy when the 'Pack is performing successfully.

One of his fellow teammates, Mike Mitchell (I), says about Nick, "He is a great team member who gets along with everyone, an unselfish player who works hard and earns the respect of his teammates. I love him." Although the last season on the school team has ended for Nick, his basketball career is not over yet. During this season, several Division III schools, including Brandeis University, Union College, Suffolk University, Wheaton College and Western New England, have shown serious interest in Nick. He says, although he looks forward to playing in college, it will never compare his experiences playing on the Latin team.

Nick's competitive side isn't the only thing that drives him. His friendly and outgoing nature has always made him the life of the party. You will usually find him among friends who are all laughing at his great sense of humor. Coming from a close friend and teammate of Nick, he is one of the most social people I know, being the type of kid who can comfortably greet any member of the different cliques in the school that have developed over the years.

Nick also manages to keep his grades up in school, proving to be the definition of an outstanding student-athlete. He will be leaving Latin with a high GPA, and judging on the school where he plans to play basketball, he is in for four more years of a solid education along with an extension of his basketball career. It's easy to say that the college that Nick chooses to attend will be lucky to have his exceptional social skills, academic strength and unique blend of basketball talent.

SPORTS

NCAA March Madness Preview

BY ADAM FLEISCHER, II
STAFF WRITER

It's that time again. The time for which every (true) sports fan waits all year long. From baseball's opening day in April to the Super Bowl in February of next year, it is the time when people who lack any knowledge of sports begin to seem as though they know more than avid fans; the time to expect the unexpected—it's the season of buzzer-beaters, upsets, Cinderella stories and surfacing of future stars. It's March Madness.

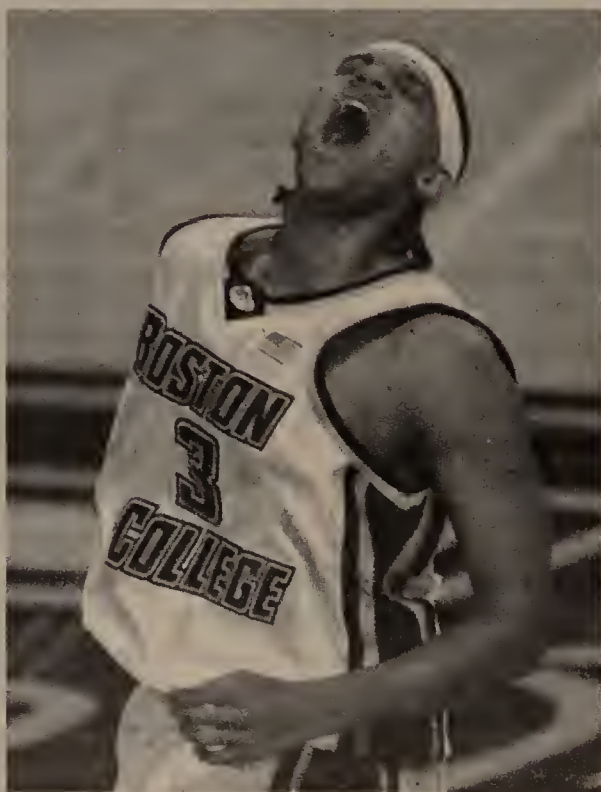
On March 17 begins the season of hopes, dreams and ambitions in the NCAA men's basketball tournament. The last five months were simply the pre-season in comparison to what lies ahead: a 65-team tournament in which the sole survivor will ultimately be crowned as the champion after the season's final game on April 4. As exciting as the tournament is, however, the regular season was completely inconsequential. The 30-or-so game season not only determined which schools would gain tournament berths, but also helped to indicate some favorites heading into this weekend.

Among those teams is Illinois. The Illini, who sat at 29-0 until its undefeated season was spoiled by Ohio State University on March 5, has spent the last 14 weeks atop the Associated Press poll. The team is led by Luther Head, Dee Brown and Deron Williams, who make up one of the most dynamic and talented backcourts in college basketball in the last 25 years. The three sensational guards have averaged a combined 42.7 points per game this season and, along with post players James Augustine and Roger Powell, led the Illini into the tournament as one of the two heaviest favorites.

The other top team, in the eyes of many, is University of North Carolina. With the help of NBA-bound juniors Sean May, Raheem McCants and Raymond Felton, along with Jawad Williams and a deep bench, the Tar Heels are able to present match-up problems for nearly any team, showing during the season that they are a force to be reckoned with. After winning the regular season title in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), undoubtedly one of the toughest conferences in the country, UNC will seek to fulfill its pre-season destiny (according to many predictions) as the national champion.

There are some other legitimate contenders standing in the team's way, however. These include ACC runner-up Wake Forest, led by national player of the year candidate Chris Paul; Kansas, equipped with senior superstars Keith Langford and Wayne Simien; the explosive Cowboys of Oklahoma State; as well as the experienced and always dangerous Duke and Kentucky. Also in the mix are the extremely gifted Arizona team and the defending champions from UConn. Although they have not quite lived up to expectations this year, the schools should advance deep into the tournament.

One team that has certainly exceeded expectations this year has been Boston College. The Eagles won their first 20 games before stumbling a little at the end of the regular season; nevertheless, the team has unmatched character, heart and determination. Rallying behind All-Big East First Team selections Craig Smith



JARED DUDLEY CELEBRATES ONE OF BC'S MANY VICTORIES.

and Jared Dudley, BC is poised for an exceptional showing in the tournament.

Regardless of who becomes the one to win those six tournament games in a row, the next few weeks of basketball will without a doubt be the most exciting weeks of the year. Who will become national champions? Will it be an obvious choice like UNC or Illinois? Will it be a "sleeper" like Louisville or Michigan State? Or will Boston College help complete the hometown championship sweep started by the Red Sox and Patriots? I guess you'll have to watch and find out.

Celtics: A Changed Team

BY JOSEPH BRAVOCO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Starting forward for the Boston Celtics, from the University of Kentucky, Antoine Walker..." was a phrase that most Boston Celtics fans felt they would never hear again, after learning of the underhanded dealings between Danny Ainge and Mark Cuban of the Mavericks. Soon enough, Antoine was packing his bags, with a hoard of angry Celtic fans grumbling in his absence. Ever since then, this C's team has been nothing but an example of mediocrity in their team performance and ability to win games in the clutch.

All of that changed with one trade.

It seemed as if the C's were actually

ing to the town he once called home. His first game back against the Utah Jazz tested his durability and flexibility to a changed game plan under skipper Doc Rivers. His performance was exemplary of his former Green glory, as he put up 14 points and ripped down 10 boards. Whatever he added, it inspired the entire team to take on a new persona, one that motivated fear and respect amongst the rest of the league. This game inaugurated a 4-game winning streak, and soon enough, the Boston fandom had hopped back on the Celtics bandwagon. It seemed as if 'Toine was the necessary ignition to this sputtering team.

Although Walker's addition to the Celtics provides necessary depth to the starting five, a league championship may



ANTOINE WALKER BACK IN A CELTICS' UNIFORM WITH HIS TRADITIONAL NUMBER 8.

getting back on track. Having eclipsed .500 for only the third time this season, the Celtics hit the ground running towards the middle of February. All they needed was one spark to send them over the edge and to establish them as a legitimate contender able to make it to the playoffs. With some extra effort, they might get a chance to represent Boston in the championship round for the first time in 19 years. Antoine "Wiggles" Walker provided the unforeseen spark the team needed.

With that trademark smile and that familiar post-up move, Antoine was back into a Celtics jersey, triumphantly return-

be somewhat of an illusory aspiration. The C's still lack a strong presence in the center position and have played around with Blount and LaFrentz to see which player fits in better. Until either one of these lackluster big men can establish themselves as everyday players, the Celtics will not be able to penetrate deeper than the second round of the playoffs at best. Still, it is safe to say that these Celtics are ready to play, and with "Wiggles" Walker hounding down their necks for a rallying point, wherever their seasonal conference ending brings them, it will be a heck of a sight to see what heart they bring to the playoffs.

Girls' Indoor Track Looks to Next Season

BY LIZ TRAN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Winter's finally over. No more rain, sleet or snow. Well, almost. I know it's wishful thinking. Another thing that has ended is the girls' indoor track season. The girls won't be roaming the halls that much until spring track officially starts. (But secretly we all know that track never ends. Once one season ends, pre-season starts for the other.)

This past season has been very productive for the girls. Recently, the track team sent 10 qualifiers to the February 19 States Track Meet. Of those 10 qualifiers, the 4x200m relay team made it. So

did Michelle Finley (II) for 300m, Jamie Fu (I) for 55m, and Caroline O'Laughlin (III) for 1000m. The qualifiers placed pretty well at the meet, but most failed to qualify for All-States. Only one runner made All-States on February 25 and that was O'Laughlin for the 1000m. Suffice it to say, States was a tough meet. It is an achievement to at least have made the state tournament.

For the coaches and captains, the season went well. Under coaches Pritchard, McCollum (field events), Taylor (short distance) and recent graduate Kerri Sullivan (long distance), every girl on this team made an effort to do her best. One of the girls told me that

although Sullivan was a good luck charm for long distance runners, she was bad luck for the sprinters. They had a clay model of her head so that long distance runners could rub it for luck, but if any sprinters touched it, they placed badly in their race.

The girls' track team has not set any outstanding new records, but they have improved tremendously since last year. They're becoming faster every day. Are there any athletes that stand out from the team? When asked that question, Finley said, "We're a very modest team." We can say that there are no braggarts who think they're better than everyone else on the team. Everyone is just given equal respect

and admiration for what they do best.

The track team had a really good season. In the beginning they weren't in exceptional shape, but as the season progressed, so too did their speed and agility. It was also a fun season. The addition of Coach Taylor was very motivating to all the girls; she even ran beside them during practice. Her presence helped them to keep going on with the sport.

I know the whole team is looking forward to next season for indoor track. Their goal is to improve their personal records. If they focus on it, they will achieve it. But for now, we'll enjoy the end of winter and the beginning of a warm spring.



Real Fires Alarm BLS

By **KE ZHANG, II**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

On Monday, April 4, 2005, students walking to their third period classes around 9:47 a.m. were interrupted by the incessant whooping of the fire alarm. As usual, students leisurely ambled outside, talking and laughing and returned to classes within 15 minutes. On the next day, only minutes into second period at approximately 9:01, classes were once again interrupted. This time, students shivered in the brisk morning air for over 20 minutes.

The back-to-back alarms puzzled the student body since alarms have occurred infrequently this year. According to Assistant Head Master Malcolm Flynn, the alarms were caused by trash-barrel fires set in boys' bathrooms on the first floor. The similar nature of both fires and the fact that they occurred on consecutive days have led many to suspect that the fires were related. The administration is looking into the possibility of an arsonist in the student body. They called in the Fire Investigation Unit of the Boston Fire Department "to assist in determining who set the fires." Deliberately starting fires on school property "is a criminal act and [the Administration] wants to find and prosecute the person who did it. We have some information, we have talked to some people and we are investigating further in conjunction with the Boston Fire Department," said



LEAH SKAHEN (U)

Mr. Flynn, who declined to comment on whether there are specific suspects.

In the 2003-2004 school year, there was a total of four fire alarms. So far this year, we have had three. On February 8, 2005, the day of the Patriots Super Bowl parade, two fire alarms occurred, forcing the Administration to hold a second homeroom period in the middle of the day. Students were suspected of utilizing the alarm as a means of escaping to see the parade.

The Administration actively sought out anyone suspected of causing fires or triggering fire alarms. Masters were asked to compile a list of students not in class when the alarm was triggered, and those students were expected to prove their innocence. In addition, the Administration increased the number of Senior Praefects monitoring the hallways. "Their presence is a preventative stand," said Mr. Flynn. "Having Praefects helps prevent false alarms. However, these [two fires] occurred behind bathroom doors," he added.

Administrators are considering the possibility of arson extremely seriously. With help from the Fire Investigation Unit and the student body, they are hoping to resolve the situation. "There are people in the school who know who set the fires. They need to tell a teacher or administrator who did it," said Mr. Flynn. "It is very dangerous to have an arsonist in the school. We need to identify and give help to this person."



BLS Loses Mr. Grant

By **AARON SUNSTEIN, I**
NEWS EDITOR

Mr. Harold Grant was one of the few people at Boston Latin School that I always said hello to. He was always so friendly and caring to students; I was continually amazed by the number of students' names that he, a substitute teacher, could remember.

While many of us noticed that Mr. Grant didn't move as easily this year as he once had, I, for one, always took his continued presence at the Latin school for granted. As much a part of the fabric of this institution as anyone, Mr. Grant walked into school on his own steam, day after day and year after year.

Everyone in the school seems to have known Mr. Grant and has a Mr. Grant story, especially famous were his historical dissertations. I will always remember the last time he was my substitute teacher, for my U.S. History class. He began by asking me what we were discussing. I think I told him we were looking at Jacksonian democracy. Evidently excited,

he launched into the astounding connections between Andrew Jackson and various notable Ancient Romans. Then, from Caesar and Cicero, he proceeded to narrate an extraordinarily lucid and complete history of Western Civilization up to the French Revolution, at which point the bell rang. I was off to my next class, marveling and chuckling a little to myself.

Mr. Grant was also a passionate music lover, who would often discuss with me his favorite Boston Symphony concerts of 30 years ago. He was very enthusiastic, even as an older man, with everything intellectual. For him, Boston Latin School was, above all, a profound institution of learning, and he professed this belief to countless students.

The entire Boston Latin School community indeed suffered a great loss with his passing on Monday, April 5. Although he is no longer with us, we will always remember him, not only as one of the greatest substitute teachers, but also as one of the most insightful people at Boston Latin.

Pope Passes Away

By **BARRY TOMASINI, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's already being called "history's largest funeral." More than 2,000,000 people have filed in a viewing line to see the body of John Paul II, now officially titled John Paul the Great. He was not always called John Paul, however. He was born Karol Wojtyla on May 20, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. He led a difficult childhood: when Karol was only nine years old, his mother passed away; within the next 12 years, both his father and brother died as well.

As a young man, he was forced to work in a chemical plant by the Nazis, who were in control of Poland at that time, to avoid being sent to a concentration camp. In October of 1942, he began studies for his priesthood in a seminary, held secretly without the Nazis' knowledge, in Kraków. A few years later, he completed his seminary studies and began his travels to Rome and other world capitals in order to further his research.

Years later, he returned to Poland to fill a position at St. Florian's in Krakow. After attaining the position of Bishop, he decided to travel back to Rome to participate in the Second Vatican Council. More commonly known as "Vatican II", it



POPE JOHN PAUL II

made pivotal changes such as the Vatican's decision to endorse having masses in the vernacular, not solely in Latin. There were four sessions of the Vatican II council, and between the second and third session, Karol Wojtyla became the Archbishop of Krakow, giving him complete control over all of the churches in the diocese of Krakow.

Although this was a high honor, it was not the final step for Karol.

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Global News Tidbits

>> Ming Kuang Chen wasn't being irresponsible when he didn't show up for work for three consecutive days at the Happy Dragon restaurant in the Bronx. He was stuck in the elevator of a highrise apartment after making his last delivery. Kuang, who passed 80+ hours by sleeping, was treated only for dehydration. (AP)

>> A seven year old boy of Enterprise, Alabama was so frustrated that his father would not take him to play with his friends that he decided to set out on his own. The boy drove his father's pickup truck until he crashed it into a ditch. As police officers approached, he locked the doors and pressed the gas pedal, but the ditch was too deep for the truck to move. The police got him out of the car by telling him they would take him to his friends. They then took him to the police station. (AP)

>> The SEAL (Society, Earth, Animals, Life) club at Boston Latin raised \$477 from a penny drive and sales from plush puppies that will go to the Oxfam Sudan Crisis Relief Fund. The effort was spearheaded by Ying Ying Fok (I). (Argo)

>> Darrell and Nina Hallett were devastated when their beloved golden retriever, Comet, was diagnosed with lymphoma last summer. The determined Bainbridge Island, Washington couple, however, had several of Comet's relatives donate stem

cells in an effort to save him. Comet, after a long recovery, is now doing fine. (AP)

>> When the owner of a Thai restaurant in Perth, Australia, discovered that his venue was ridden with cockroaches, he knew he had to exterminate them. When 36 cockroach fumigation devices were detonated, however, they exploded with such a force that the restaurant's roof was blown off. (AP)

NEWS

Military Locks and Loads Students

BY LINDA ZHENG, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As high school winds down, most Boston Latin School students think of the college process. Other students, however, especially those from poor high schools, often encounter more military recruiters than college counselors as they search for options beyond high school. High schools are now required to host armed forces representatives at least twice a year, but at schools with small college-bound populations, recruiters often play much more prominent roles.

The No Child Left Behind Act, signed by President Bush in January of 2002, includes an oft-overlooked provision, which requires high schools to divulge the names, addresses and phone numbers of all juniors and seniors. In October 2002, a joint letter sent by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Education Secretary Rod Paige to school officials explained guidelines "for compliance with these new laws." Schools fear that if they ignore the requirements, they could face the penalty of losing a share of the

billions of dollars that the law dispenses for education.

According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, the military has doubled its recruiting budget from \$300 million in 1998 to nearly \$600 million in 2003. The total recruiting budget amounts to a whopping \$4 billion if one adds more general expenses like signing bonuses, college funds and recruiter pay. Also, for the first time in a decade, the Army National Guard has not met its yearly volunteer quota of around 79,000.

A *Los Angeles Times* article on April 5 described just how pervasive the influence of military recruiters is at some high schools. "Marine Sergeant Rick Carloss is as familiar to students as some teachers at Downey High School," Erika Hayasaki reports. "He does push-ups with students during PE classes and faculty basketball games. During lunch, he hands out key chains, tee shirts and posters that proclaim: 'Think of Me as Your New Guidance Counselor.'" This is not atypical behavior. According to the Army's "School Recruiting Program Handbook," recruiters should deliver donuts to school staff,

attend dances and Black History and Hispanic Heritage Month events.

High schools are veritable breeding grounds for future servicemen and women because of the large pool of potential enlistees. Affluent schools where most students attend college, like Boston Latin, are generally glossed over. Since minorities statistically tend to make less money, lower income high schools with high minority populations are generally the most targeted.

High school counselor Isobel Rahn, from McLean High School in Virginia, believes that the military offers many benefits, but reminds her students that "the con [today] is that you can get killed." When questioned about the lack of emphasis the military puts on the war in Iraq, Lieutenant Dan Daoust stated in a NewsHour documentary that the recruiters "want to focus on the positive sides of... military service that the students don't get exposed to 24/7 on TV."

In Boston, parents and students wishing to protect their contact informa-

MILITARY RECRUITMENT
Continued on page 3

It's A Small World After All

BY MARY HONG, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

You are padding silently through the warm jungle with a sharp-edged stone blade in your left hand and a giant rat, the meal of the day, slung over your bare shoulder. Suddenly breaching the edge of the vines and trees, you crouch low, scurrying through the tall grass, constantly looking left and right for giant komodo dragons basking in the sun, their eyes cold and tongues flickering. Back at the cave, you gather around a fire with your family, hunkering down to sharpen stone blades, making plans for an upcoming elephant hunt.

According to a group of Australian and Indonesian archeologists and paleontologists led by Mike Morwood, Thomas Sutikna and Richard Roberts, this may have been the daily life of a newly discovered species of human. The fossils of *Homo floresiensis* have been found on the Indonesian island of Flores. Although these creatures exhibited characteristics of the *Homo* genus with primitive features similar to that of *Homo erectus* (such as a sloping skull, a prominent brow arch and small teeth), what makes them really remarkable is their size. As adults, *Homo floresiensis* stood only three feet tall. Furthermore, the first specimen found is only 18,000 years old, strongly indicating that these humans coexisted with our own ancestors, the *Homo sapiens*,



for over 40,000 years. Although as of yet there is no concrete evidence of direct interaction between the two species, legends of wild pygmies that inhabited the rain forests abound on Flores.

Starting in 2001, excavations of Liang Bua, a cave on Flores Island, revealed fossils of pygmy elephant stegodonts and giant rats. Subsequent digs found hundreds of stone tools and animal bones, in addition to traces of fire. The great break with *Homo floresiensis* came in October 2004 when Morwood, Sutikna, Roberts and their workers unearthed an almost complete skeleton of a little human affectionately nicknamed the "Hobbit."

At first, colleagues in the research world were highly skeptical that this was indeed a new species of humans. It has always been thought that modern man dominated earth alone after the extinction of the Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons 25,000 years ago. Many speculated the fossil to be merely that of a *Homo erectus* child or an adult stricken by microcephalic dwarfism. However, laboratory analysis of teeth and pelvis structure identify the fossil as that of an adult. Examinations of the body, which is well proportioned but has several primitive

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2004-2005 Academic Year

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World Comes Together to Mourn

POPE
Continued from page 1

Approximately three years later, Pope Paul VI announced that he had selected several Bishops to become Cardinals, and Wojtyla's name was on the list. He was consecrated a Cardinal on June 28, 1967.

In 1978 when Pope Paul VI died, John Paul I took over the position, but died soon after. Karol Wojtyla was then elected Pope, with the name Pope John Paul II.

John Paul II was not the typical Pope. He traveled to more countries and spoke more languages than most, if not all, of his predecessors. He was open to things such as attending religious services by other faiths (he was the first Pope to attend a service in a Synagogue), and having people celebrate mass in less conventional ways (but preferred to hold mass in the traditional manner). Yet his stances on political issues such as homosexuality and abortion were conservative.

The Conclave is set to begin on April 17; it could last as little as a day, but will continue until a new Pope is elected. Conclave is Latin for "with a key," which is a Latin pun: literally, the Cardinals are locked in a building until a new Pope is elected, but the new Pope also "carries the keys of St. Peter," or runs the Catholic church. Traditionally, when a new Pope is elected, white smoke rises

Although there are over a hundred cardinals, here are a few of the forerunners in the Papal election.

Name	Country	Description
Francis Arinze	Nigeria	Arinze is conservative theologically. Electing an African pope would appeal to the fastest growing part of the Church - the Southern Hemisphere. And it would signal that the Church is no longer a European church.
Dionigi Tettamanzi	Italy	Conservative and Italian - two of the traits that fit most past Popes and two of the traits that describe Tettamanzi. He is currently serving as the Archbishop of Milan.
Christoph Schönborn	Austria	Being well traveled and well spoken, he is very similar to John Paul II. His aristocratic beliefs have gotten his current Archdiocese into trouble.

from the building, and black smoke is burned every night during the time when no one candidate receives the majority of votes. In accordance with the wishes of John Paul the Great, however, bells will

toll when a new Pope is elected. No matter which cardinal is elected as the next Pope, John Paul the Great will always be remembered as one of the most beloved figures in history.

Lawsuits Over Ageism Begin

MONICA MLECZKO, II
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, March 30, the Supreme Court ruled that employees over the age of 40 can file age discrimination lawsuits even if their employers do not pursue intentionally discriminatory policies—that is, as long as employees can show that any policy has a “disparate impact,” a disproportionate and unfair effect on them because of their ages. This ruling broadens the definition of age discrimination, although racial or gender discrimination has still received more attention under the law.

In the case in question, *Smith v. City of Jackson*, police officers in Mississippi sued the city of Jackson for discrimination after they increased the pay of officers that had been in the work force less than five years while keeping pay for senior officers flat. Although the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the city, they said that such complaints are legitimate and addressable in court.

Although it is now easier for employees to file age bias lawsuits, the current ruling does not necessarily make such lawsuits easier to win. The decision states that if an employer can prove that there were “reasonable factors other than age” involved in company policy there is no discrimination. Justice John Paul Stevens, at 84 the oldest Supreme Court Justice, wrote for the majority that “age [...] not uncommonly has relevance to an individual’s capacity to engage in certain types of employment.”

In the case in question, for instance, the court wrote that the city was not discriminating when they raised salaries for junior officers only in order to make the positions more competitive. Justice Stevens, however, also believes that the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 already permits legal recourse for “disparate impact” claims. Comparisons can be drawn to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which allowed legal “disparate impact” claims for sexual, racial and religious discrimination.

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote a separate opinion, stating that only the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a federal agency that interprets work place discrimination laws, could rule on “disparate impact” claims, but that such claims have always been permissible within the agency. Scalia’s opinion reflects his stance that the judiciary wields too much power.

Writing for the three justices in the minority, Justice O'Connor stated that age discrimination law does not allow “disparate impact” claims because employers should have the freedom to make decisions to improve the work force, even if they unintentionally harm workers. Justice O'Connor believes that there is a connection between a worker’s age and ability to perform, as the defense attorney had argued before a bench whose average age is 70.

The pro-worker interpretation of the 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act is a step forward for workers over 40, about 75 million and half strong in the nation’s work force. Because this involves such a large percentage of the work force, the act is considered exceedingly important to the national economy. The number of cases filed for age bias is expected to increase; however, whether they are likely to succeed is still up in the air.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT
Continued from page 2

-tion can check the “opt-out” box in the take-home parent handbook released at the beginning of each school year. In the first year, however, only about a dozen out of 7,500 juniors and seniors chose to do so. “Parents are in the dark,” commented Boston Public Schools parent Daniel Alterman, whose son received an unexpected recruitment letter. “It freaked me out. I didn’t sign up to support the military.” Although information about opting-out is explained in the handbook, no individual notice has been sent to parents concerning the new process.

At Boston Latin School, military

recruiters are only allowed one visit per year and must schedule them beforehand, the same policy that applies to college recruiters. Military personnel were denied requests to establish weekly visits and one-on-one sessions with students five years ago. Jim Montague, Guidance Program Director, expressed his concern when a Boston Latin student enlisted before his junior year. He believes that recruiters pressure students into signing immediately by intentionally hinting at the urgency of their decision. Mr. Montague stated, “I feel that students should explore what the military offers, but I hope they do not make decisions prematurely without exploring college options as well.”

While federal law has always required all males to register with the Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18, military recruiters are now allowed to contact potential recruits of 15 to 16 years of age. Prospective candidates are tracked and repeatedly contacted in order to assure their eventual enlistment. Some school officials, such

as Wanda Welch of McDonough High in Pomfret, Maryland are supportive of military recruiters. She asserts that if students “don’t know what they want to do, enlisting can be a good choice.”

Since the military does not track how or where high school students enlist, it is difficult to assess the success of military recruiting on high school campuses.

Material from the Chicago Reporter was used in compiling this report.



LITTLE PEOPLE
Continued from page 2

characteristics (such as longer arms), dispel the theory of dwarfism since most dwarfs have a large head relative to their body. Furthermore, the findings of at least six different fossils of the same size have weakened assertions that “Hobbit” was an anomaly. So far, the prospective time period based on radioactive dating of collected specimens span from 95,000 to only 13,000 years ago.

More surprisingly, though these tiny humans had brains not quite the size of those of chimpanzees and only a third of that of modern man, *Homo floresiensis* seem to have been able to perform complex tasks and maintain some sort of culture.

Evidence indicates that they were capable of hunting large game (including pygmy elephants) in groups and making sophisticated tools (such as blades and awls) out of stone. Also, it is believed that they could control fire, a skill not thought to have been mastered until 200,000 years ago.

One theory of how this branch of the human family may have evolved maintains that they originated from *Homo erectus* on nearby Java. After finding a way to the island, Flores man decreased in size while in isolation from other human groups. This idea is according to the “island theory,” which says that large animals on small islands tend to shrink on account of the lack of predators and the limited resources. It also supports the existence of diminutive stegadons, as well as the giant rats, which increased in size because of the lack of competition.

In any case, this discovery is not only significant as the addition of a new branch in human evolutionary history. It is also important in its support of the theory that many human species once existed all over the world, although *Homo sapiens* are the only ones alive today.

NEWS

"Hammer's" Past Full of Scandals

BY ASHLYN GARRY, II
NEWS EDITOR

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas), also known as "the Hammer," has been in the political spotlight the last few weeks because of his efforts to keep Terri Schiavo alive. Even more recently, he has come under attack for allegedly illegally giving his wife Christine and daughter Danielle more than half a million dollars. DeLay, however, says that his wife and daughter's money was earned legitimately. He cites it in their disclosure forms as payment for "campaign management," "fund-raising fees" and "payroll." He went on to express his anger that he and his family were "singled out," while other lawmakers "in similar situations" were not. DeLay went as far as to say that this new accusation is "just another seedy attempt by the liberal media to embarrass [him]."

These are not the only instances of Representative DeLay being accused of improperly handling funds. In fact, he has been accused of mismanaging money related to his campaign several times in the past five years, especially with respect to travel expenses. In 2000, he used money given to him by the National Center for Public Policy Research (NCPPR) for a trip to England. These funds were donated to the NCPPR by a Native American gambling services company and the tribe itself for the express purpose of supporting DeLay's trip. Two months later, Tom DeLay voted against casino regulation legislation, which the Indian group opposed.

In 1997, he went on a trip to Mos-



cow funded by a lobbyist group that advocated Russian governmental interests. DeLay claims that the trip was properly documented as being funded by a non-profit group, but that he was unaware of the group's close relationship with Russia. In August 2001 he also went to South

Korea on the tab of the Korea-United States Exchange Council. Three days before his departure, the group changed their status to that of a "foreign agent." Legislators are banned from accepting travel gifts from foreign agents. Because the trip, however, was planned before

the Council became an agent of South Korea, DeLay could not be held at fault. A total of eight House members and 15 House aides have accepted trips from this organization.

The House Ethics Committee has investigated DeLay several times since Fall 2004. DeLay was chastised for failing to comply with the House code of conduct in matters related to his controversial redistricting plan in Texas, which resulted in the loss of several Democratic seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Committee members unanimously agreed that DeLay acted in poor judgment when he held a golf fundraiser in June 2002, where he discussed energy issues the House was going to address with officers of an energy company. Initially, the Committee would not take a stand on DeLay's alleged improper acceptance of corporate donations for political uses. Three people linked to the fundraising department of a political action group that DeLay helped create were indicted in September by a Texas Grand Jury. Several documents also allegedly linked DeLay to the scandal. As a preventative measure, the Republicans of the House attempted to pass a motion that would allow DeLay to remain the majority leader should he be indicted, but they were denied. Instead, the Republican chairman of the House Ethics Committee, along with two other Republicans, were replaced by people deemed more friendly toward DeLay.

Speculations about the legality and justification of Representative DeLay's actions have reached an all-time high, but there have been no official punitive actions taken thus far.

APs at BLS

BY JIEYU JIANG, III
STAFF WRITER

The Advanced Placement (AP) program at Boston Latin School has always been a source of controversy. The AP courses are college-level and allow students to acquire college credit while still in high school. Today, the school offers 24 of the 34 Advanced Placement courses offered by the College Board. Boston Latin administers 1,400 AP exams yearly, the greatest number at any high school in New England. In the 2003-2004 school year, Latin School students took 1,337 exams in 28 subjects with 78 percent of the grades being three or higher.

Since their introduction to Boston Latin in 1964, students have been allowed a maximum of three AP courses. Each year, however, the headmaster makes exceptions for those who show academic competence and who petition to take one more. This year marked a substantial change in the policy, as Ms. Kelley rejected all requests for four AP's from future juniors, as well as the majority of requests from future seniors, many of whom currently take four AP's. When asked what caused the sudden change, the Administration replies that it is in the student's best interest to not take too much work during the already stressful junior and senior years. Jim Montague, Director of Guidance, says, "We often need to protect the students from themselves because they are so ambitious and hard-working." In addition, they explain that while most high schools require only five courses, BLS requires six.

Yi Liu (II), who currently takes four AP's, asks, "Is this how the school

fosters our education?" While Lexington High School, Brookline High School and Newton North allow students to take five or six AP's, Boston Latin School now only allows three. Many students believe that the limitation will affect their college admission chances. Unhappy students have already drafted a petition demanding a change of policy.

The Administration's position is that students who take only three AP's will earn higher grades because they will not be as overextended. Annie Wong (II) believes that grade inflation has prompted the change, since the grade point averages of students taking four AP's often exceed those of students who take fewer AP's.

Several other events this year seem to indicate a major change in the school's philosophy about Advanced Placement courses. Since the school does not offer World History AP, it allows sophomores in their second year of World History to take the AP exam, even though they did not take the corresponding Advanced Placement course. This year, however, several checks made out to Boston Latin School for the May exam have been returned for unknown reasons.

In another change in policy, juniors who are not enrolled in the 11th grade Advanced Placement Composition class are not being allowed to take the exam. About 30 juniors had their checks returned when they attempted to register for the AP Writing exam. This is in direct contradiction to the aforementioned policy in regards to World History AP.

Mugabe Re-elected

BY JULIA ARNOUS, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

On Thursday, March 31, 2005, parliamentary elections were held in the south African nation of Zimbabwe. The results were largely in favor of the nation's present leader, 81-year-old Robert G. Mugabe. His party, the African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANA-PF) won 78 legislative seats. Only 41 supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), a party opposed to Mugabe's policies, were elected, along with a lone independent.

In response to the threat of protests and demonstrations against the recent election's results, Mugabe, who has previously been criticized for human rights violations committed to silence opposition (such as aggression against humanitarian workers, censorship, and imprisonment), declared that his supporters and officials "can also raise mass action against mass action, and there would naturally be conflicts, serious conflicts."

Protests, however, have indeed been staged. On April 4, for example, hundreds demonstrated in Harare, despite the election itself having been described as "tolerant and orderly." It is yet unknown whether police interference caused this demonstration to end, but according to the MDC, between five and 10 of the protesters were arrested.

The opposition's claims that the results are illegitimate and that "disturbing, massive fraud" was committed are presently being investigated by several groups, including the MDC and the Zimbabwe Election Support Network. Nevertheless, several countries including South Africa have already announced

their support for Mugabe and their confidence in the election process.

MDC, however, has called attention to the fact that in the nation's last parliamentary election, which took place in 2000, 57 members of its party were elected. Morgan Tsvangirai, who leads the party, has claimed that 90 MDC candidates would have been elected had the government not tampered with the process. 10 percent of voters were reportedly turned away from the polls, and in rural areas, where it was exceedingly difficult for the process to be adequately monitored, there were significant discrepancies between the number of votes reported to have been cast and the number that Mugabe's officials counted in deciding the victors.

Despite the fact that Britain, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations have questioned the credibility of Mugabe, the election, and the the Zimbabwean government, the MDC does not seem to have a definite plan of action. Moreover, travel sanctions imposed on Mugabe did not stop him from traveling to the Vatican for the Pope's funeral.

In addition, Mugabe now has the power to change Zimbabwe's constitution, since with the 30 parliamentarians whom he chooses, the ZANA-PF will have the necessary two-thirds majority. Mugabe, who plans to retire when he is "a century old," adamantly denies any wrongdoing by his government. However, for some human rights activists and Western leaders, the recent elections have only been a confirmation of Mugabe's crookedness and another example of an African country plagued by corruption, after imperialist withdrawal.

FORUM

The National Honor Society



BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

BY KATIE BALACONIS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The National Honor Society has its critics and, to many in the Boston Latin School community, it might just seem like a social club that meets twice a year to have donuts. Those who believe this misperception, however, fail to perceive its true point and mission, as well as the role that the National Honor Society plays in both the school community and our neighborhood environment.

Contrary to popular belief, the members of the NHS do not do "nothing." To initially gain membership, a student must be strong in academics and extracurriculars, in addition to being in good disciplinary standing within the school. This selection process probably brings up the biggest criticism that the NHS receives—that some applicants cheat academically in order to gain the grades necessary to be admitted, and that some members are just not worthy of this honor. There is, however, an extensive selection process in which the Faculty Council, a group consisting of teachers of the school, goes through and evaluates the students in all required criteria so that mistakes like these do not happen.

Once admitted, an NHS scholar must continue to maintain these standards; their performance is evaluated both in the form of service reports submitted every term and in periodic assessment of a student's grades. Thus, in spite of its few meetings each year, the NHS is in reality a full-time commitment.

Moreover, the NHS propagates the mission of the Boston Latin School by preparing students for good citizenship and instilling in them valuable life lessons. For example, members and candidates must demonstrate qualities of leadership in the activities in which they participate, and therefore are prepared for a role that all of us will need to play in the future. They are presidents of clubs, student council members or captains of sports teams. They must also learn the vital skill of time management in order to create that fragile and difficult balance between academics and extracurricular activities.

The true effectiveness of the NHS as an organization in the school lies in the fact that it is not merely a title: it also offers a source of motivation for students. It is a goal, a reward for someone who has worked hard to achieve. Though many students here at Latin will strive to achieve with or without an additional incentive, it is encouraging to acknowledge individuals for their hard work. After all, who would not want to be recognized for his own involvement and dedication?

Dedication must be stressed, as NHS scholars must invest a vast amount of their time in their activities to both acquire and maintain membership. It is this commitment which shows just how much they enjoy what they do. Nobody would put so much of their time and effort into something that they truly did not care about. It also takes dedication to gain the respect and leadership roles which are necessary for NHS scholars to maintain. Students who simply run around trying to fill up lines on a resume spread themselves too thin, revealing a lack of true devotion to their activities.

Similar to other institutions that have set the bar high for its members, the NHS is subject to intense scrutiny when one member does not uphold its standards. This, however, should not diminish the integrity and reputation that students have worked so hard to build. We must simply remember that we all make mistakes and that no one is flawless or perfect.

BY NICHOLAS DiSTEFANO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The National Honor Society is a well-known establishment at the Boston Latin School. Many, however, have recently questioned the integrity of the Society and its perception as a "privilege" among scholars. Admission into the society is contingent upon a student's successful demonstration of four qualities: scholarship, leadership, character and service. According to the handbook, a student must maintain a 3.0 GPA, show positive leadership, be courteous and punctual and have a history of sustained service to the school.

While all these requirements are admirable on paper, they are just that: a list of adjectives and signatures supposedly indicative of how "honorable" an individual is. There is no filter in the admissions process to sift true integrity from mere pretense.

The twice-annual NHS induction ceremonies have become no more than performances and spectator sports. The same speeches are made, the same reception of awards and recitation of the pledge are carried out, and the same empty appeal is made to Ms. Kelley for the "Head Master's Privilege"—which, of course, is always granted per the formula. This pomp is intermingled with a dramatic musical selection from the band and the sound of proud parents tearfully snapping pictures.

The NHS system has been consistently proving itself flawed. Many students, both members and those outside the organization, have expressed dissatisfaction at the gulf that is growing between what the Society says and what it actually does. But why do I need to tell you this? Many of you have heard these complaints—some of you may even have expressed them.

There is no doubt that the NHS can have a positive influence on students. As Sarah Parisi (II) explains, "It serves as both a reward for those who have done well and a goal for others." While some students truly exhibit the qualities that the NHS demands, others may only superficially demonstrate these traits—pursuing goals not for the sake of pursuing them, but with a reward in mind, with the hope to someday become stamped and tagged by the nation's most "honorable" society.

Moreover, students have voiced that the NHS has lost its meaning and, once inducted, students do little to actively benefit their school community. According to Mimi Cai (I), "I think NHS does not stand for [what it is] supposed to." It is no longer a commendation of honest work and character, but an award for those who have stacked up GPA points, whether through cheating or true hard work, and who may have compiled a slate of extracurricular activities simply for the purpose of climbing up to that shiny NHS pin. Admissions into the society misses the mark as well. As Leo Rezil (I) states, "There are many students who have the grades to be in NHS, and who also might have plenty of extracurricular activities, but are unable to make it."

Veronica Koven-Matasy (II) criticizes the criteria used to measure character: "Some of their entrance requirements are a bit skewed; attendance shouldn't count so much, and the 'ruler' policy with regards to extracurriculars. Quality should count, not quantity; one solid, time-consuming activity is more meaningful than a half dozen-dozen haphazard commitments."

To many at Boston Latin, the NHS seems to have betrayed itself and its own standards. Yes, it is a good institution and we should congratulate and recognize those students who have excelled in school; however, as the phrase goes, "Intent and outcome are so rarely coincident." The National Honor Society seems to have fallen short of the very same standards by which it judges its students.

Chanda Ruff (II) summarizes the chief complaints against the NHS: "I think the NHS is not truthful and honest. I feel that some of the people who deserve to get in do not, and those who do not deserve the recognition receive it." Though there are many who have worked hard and truly deserve the honor, it seems to have missed the mark. In order to truly be an "honorable" society, the NHS needs to adopt the values it is meant to honor and try to mend its relationships with the student body.

Forum Question

Is the National Honor Society an effective organization at BLS?



"Yes. Because I'm in it. Although I really don't know what they do."

—Louis Frank, I



"Not really. It's like a rank system. You could be president of the NHS at another school but not get in at this school."

—Zach Cronin, II



"Yes. If colleges can see it and it can help you then I think it's to your advantage."

—Courtney Holt, III



"Yes. Because it motivates students to work harder."

—Cam Le, IV



"Yes. I believe it is an effective program that encourages interest in school studies."

—Chris Campbell-Orrrock, V



"Yeah. I think it's good because if you do deserve to be in it, you should be recognized for it."

—Catarina Gonclaves, VI

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE YAN (VI)

The Argo invites and encourages members of the Boston Latin School community to submit editorial opinions concerning issues of importance to them for publication in subsequent issues. To submit material, please contact the Editors Lisa Jing (118) or Franklin(e) Ho (130), or Editorial Board Associate Anneke Schwob (124). The Argo editorial board can be reached at blsargo.forum@gmail.com.

FORUM: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indoor Track Misses the Mark

Sean Rabe



In the last issue of the *Argo*, an article was published entitled "Indoor Track Team Resigns" (Bo Shang, II) which was exceedingly and unfairly critical of the indoor track coaches, especially of Coach Denise Pritchard. Although in recent years, the Boston Latin School track team has enjoyed fewer successes than it would like, this record cannot be blamed on the performance of the coaches—it was they who worked hard to form the best team possible from their pool of players

Shang's article contains numerous

irrational and irrelevant criticisms. One anonymous individual is quoted remarking that a girl cried because she was not allowed to run in the Dual County League championships as she had attended a Facing History trip. "Coach Pritchard went too far," the quote states. Yet, the article conveniently leaves out the fact that the Facing History trip happened to be on the same day as the DCL championships, and assuming that the girl could not duplicate herself, she was physically unable to be in both places at once.

The piece also contains blatant misinformation that leads the reader to believe that cuts were based on "attendance only." But this is entirely untrue. Most of the cuts were based on talent, not on attendance records, which is why multiple "time trials" were held at the beginning of the season to test an individual's ability. The coaches then made cuts based on these initial trials. No coach can be blamed for someone's lack of talent or athletic ability. Some were not allowed to run in meets simply because they were not

skilled enough. No one needs to "suck up" to Ms. Pritchard in order to have a place in a race; they merely have to be a contributing member of the team who works hard to develop his running skills. If people cannot score points, then they cannot complain when they are not allowed to run in every race they wish. Almost every other sports team at Boston Latin makes cuts based on talent, and the track team is no exception to this policy.

Of late, the team has also been weakened by a shortage of committed athletes. Practices are tough, as they ought to be, and sometimes a few team members might skip practice when they sense a difficult workout in store. Given the large number of people who tried out for track this year, Coach Pritchard finally had the freedom to make sweeping cuts without compromising the size of the team. However, many members quit, realizing that they would not simply get an easy varsity letter by attending practice four out of five days a week. Although Ms. Pritchard's cuts may have hurt the team this year,

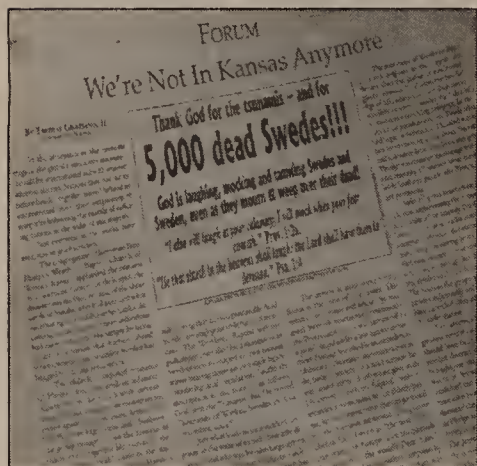
they will undoubtedly strengthen its performance in years to come.

In the future, writers reporting on any matter should more carefully examine the facts surrounding an issue before launching a severely one-sided *ad hominem* attack that slanders a person's good name. Ms. Pritchard is one of the best and most supportive coaches at Boston Latin School; she never fails to wholeheartedly cheer on her runners during a meet. She may occasionally snap at people, or make an absent-minded mistake, but only because she has an overwhelming amount of responsibility without a needed supporting staff to help manage her duties. She may have been strict regarding the attendance policy this year, but no more so than any coach from any other sport should be. Every coach expects team members to be present on a daily basis. Her stringent rules will only help the track team develop into a more respected and stronger organization in the future.

Sean Rabe is a member of Class III.

An Unchristian Church

Norris Duncan



I am a Christian.

I believe in a higher force—God, if you want to call it that. Jesus Christ was a great man. Some of the stories of the Bible are the most heroic and influential narratives ever written, and the Ten Commandments are better than any self-help book you will ever find.

But according to Tom Phelps, I am not a Christian. According to the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, I am a sinner, unworthy of God's greater teachings. Because I would associate with homosexuals. Because I can and do embrace them as my family. Because I do not wish them dead, crushed under the hal-

lowed boot of a fiery-eyed God. Because I would not snicker at a gay person's funeral as they do, while traditional scriptures are read, finding humor in the presumed irony of it all.

Well, the Westboro Baptist Church has another thing coming.

In an article published Issue IV in the *Argo*—"We're Not in Kansas Anymore" by Thomas Graziano (II)—an atrocity graced the pages of the Boston Latin School newspaper. "THANK GOD FOR TSUNAMI & 2,000 DEAD SWEDES!!!" proclaimed the Westboro Baptist Church newsletter, an image attached to Graziano's article. They were happy that vacationing Swedes had died just because they were from a country that supported homosexuals. Well, some of you may remember, back during World War II, Nazis rejoiced that Jews were being killed just for being Jews. And once blacks were lynched just for being black. Japanese-Americans were imprisoned just for being Japanese. Women were denied the right to vote just for being women. And Native Americans were being controlled and deceived just for being Native Americans.

Well, those times are over. America

has all but beaten racism, sexism and religious prejudice into the ground. But homophobia still spreads, led on by the misuse of religion. Homophobes use religion to spread their hate. They hide behind it, using it as an all-purpose barrier against criticism. They use it to give purpose to their prejudice and a background to their hostility. These actions are not acceptable.

The purpose of any religion is to give hope to the weak, to give guidance to the strong and to give comfort to the grieving. Religion is present to help each and every one of us. But there is no conceivable way that "2,000 DEAD SWEDES" can help anyone, least of all the Swedish themselves or the Kansas Baptist Church. Their use of religion to propagate—and justify—their glee makes me, a true Christian, sick and angry.

These cowards are hiding behind our religion, our faith, the very belief system that makes up and governs our lives! They have no right to be there, no right to stay there, no right at all to spout hate from inside our religion to help cure their own petty insecurities! Let us push them out of the shadow of faith, kick them into the open where the whole universe,

even God, can see. Their words are not the holy sword of Christianity, Judaism or whatever religion they claim to uphold. Let us show everyone that their words are no more than cornered whimpers as the world changes without them.

Do not use my religion to spread hate. Do not use my religion to spread intolerance. Do not use my religion to spread any of your selfish ranting!

I am not the sole person who has addressed this topic before in the past, nor am I the only one who believes in it. I know that there are millions of other people who hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. Remember that saying, that saying from the Declaration of Independence and the very saying on which America is based? Which means that what it declares not only concerns Christians, but Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Confucians, Taoists and all others. Do you hear us, Tom Phelps? Do you hear us, all who would entertain such prejudiced notions?

Do not use our religion to spread hate.

Thank you.

Norris Duncan is a member of Class III.

The Broadcast or the Bullet

Jeff Bausmer

Some of you may wonder why I have been forced to debauch the news every Monday morning with the good sir, Jeffrey Hull (I). Some of you may also wonder why, instead of reporting on quality stories, the "Jeff and Jeff Show" has been reduced to reading off a list of the newest golden flip-flops to appear in the Lost and Found.

This issue, quite Louis Frankly, will be addressed now.

Though the president does not maintain respect for the Constitution, I certainly do and will not shy away from declaring that our civil liberties are under

attack at BLSTV on Monday mornings. I do not want to dramatize the issue at hand, however, so I will keep my request humble: give me Rita or give me death.

Rita Repulsa is the most dangerous piece of a man's rib since Chili's Baby Back—and she is on on a roaring rampage of revenge now. At the State House recently, the Power Rangers unleashed a deadly assault on both Rita and her lover Scorpina, the latter of whom perished in battle. The Power Rangers killed nine people in that courtroom. They should have killed 10.

As many of you remember, we had

a vacation in the middle of January. What the press, school and Pentagon have not told you is that this vacation, ladies and gentlemen, was due almost entirely to Rita Repulsa (in conjunction with, though not limited to, the earth, the sun, prevailing winds, isotopes, Ms. Freeman and the third Duchess of Kent). I tried to report on this matter; I tried to expose what the press had overlooked. But amazingly, my transmission was cut. Aside from the extensive emotional and spiritual—not to mention aesthetic and cosmic—scarring that this censorship left on me, I am deeply concerned about the state of

a school that limits freedom of the press. Call me Leni Riefenstahl, but the quality of a news report should be determined by the viewer. Voter's prerogative, after all.

I invoke the words of my brother of a mother of a different color by declaring "the ballot or the bullet!" If BLSTV further limits the freedom of the "Jeff and Jeff Show" to report on international crime as catastrophic as that of Rita Repulsa's, then the world is in dire danger of a collapse of the news system.

Jeff Bausmer is a member of Class I.



BY ANNEKE SCHWOB (II)

What Happens To A Dream Deferred?

BY ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
STAFF WRITER

Over the past few weeks, a certain epidemic has struck the senior class. Although senioritis is certainly becoming a more prevalent concern for both masters and students, this particular problem derives from the offices of College Admissions and Financial Aid. At this point of the year, the senior class is being inundated with college notifications that either start with the statement "Congratulations..." or "The Board of Admission has completed its deliberations and regrets to inform you..." While the rejections, deferences and acceptances vary from student to student—colleges this year have certainly demonstrated the unpredictability of admission—disparity still looms forebodingly above those letters that begin with the former statement.

Accepted students are faced with a multitude of concerns such as financing their education after their much-anticipated acceptances to their desired college or university. These same problems are exacerbated for students who have been waitlisted. As the Class of 2005 is fully aware, acceptance into college is not always as celebratory an event as it should be.

The Financial Aid Office has become a determining factor of college attendance for a great many people this year. An alarming number of students have been limited to their safety schools as their only realistic options due to a lack of financial generosity from the more prestigious institutions into which they were also admitted. With the total cost of some colleges amounting to nearly \$48,000 a year, some students are receiving as little as \$1,000 in federal and collegial grants combined. Though scholarships are certainly an option, the inability to secure financial stability has forced many to sacrifice the schools for which they have worked determinedly for the past four or six years.

Students who fall within the middle class are experiencing the harsh realities of financing their dreams. While they do not have ability to afford the nearly \$200,000 it will cost to attend an es-

teemed undergraduate school for the next four years, they are also not considered underprivileged, therefore falling between the cracks of the financial aid system.

Emily Foley, a member of Class I, has demonstrated both academic and extracurricular distinction during her six years here at Latin. Her accomplishments have earned her a position in the National Honor Society and she has worked hard to maintain exemplary grades in challenging courses. Moreover, these achievements, compounded with her commendable ef-

is hardly unique. Countless seniors find themselves in similar circumstances.

Another prevalent issue concerns the students that have been waitlisted. A staggering number of over-qualified and outstanding students have found themselves on the waiting lists for many, and in some cases, all of their top schools. Hopefully, they will be taken off of these lists and accepted to their preferred schools; however, in the event that they do not receive the anticipated acceptance letters, the issue of financing becomes even more imposing. Financial aid in the majority

its matriculation list and the broad range of prestigious schools into which students are accepted. In a survey taken by a Facing History and Ourselves class, many students articulated the difficulty of paying for college. Some either take a few years off or resort to a significantly cheaper, less prestigious public college for their freshman and sophomore years.

As much as Boston Latin School is more than compliant in preparing its students academically for college, it is inadequate in accommodating the financial demands of higher education. This observation is in no way implying that Boston Latin has the obligation to support the financial needs of the 392 students that will walk across the stage in June. It does beg the question, however, of how this school can be an agent in guaranteeing a qualified student's enrollment in a prominent college without the burden of debt.

Unfortunately, I currently cannot provide a plausible solution to this issue. But here's a wild thought: the endowments at many of these colleges are astounding. Harvard, for instance, has an endowment that is estimated to be worth nearly \$20 billion. This absurd amount of money is enough to easily pay the tuition, board and amenities of every incoming student for the next 67 years. What if colleges like Harvard and other well-endowed schools opened their doors free of charge? Or at least America could be more like Canada and reconfigure the total amounts of their college tuition, room and board to an amount under \$20,000. Though this gesture is highly unlikely for any school located in the great U.S. of A., it is a more reasonable approach to solving this great dilemma.

There is something seriously disturbing about the price of higher education in this nation. There are far too many qualified students whose only barrier from attending the schools of their dreams is the flatness of their wallets. It is doubtless, however, that the students of the Class of 2005 will be successful regardless of the school they attend. Although we can never be Canada, we can certainly strive to be more economically friendly to the youth that will represent our future.



BOSTON LATIN'S PENNILESS SENIORS

forts as the president of Amnesty International, have paid off: she now has the choice of attending any of the schools to which she applied. Although schools as distinguished as Brown and Harvard are among those that accepted her, the financial packages that these more prestigious institutions have awarded have nonetheless been less than favorable. Coming from a middle class household, monetary assistance is difficult. Therefore, the deprivation of a substantial fiscal grant will most likely lead her away from these schools next year. Yet Emily's situation

of the colleges and universities across the country are set up on a "first come, first serve" basis. The better packages, determined by economic standing, will go to those students who were accepted earlier. Moreover, students accepted after being taken off a waiting list will, more often than not, experience the hardship of paying for their tuitions.

Boston Latin School alumni have expressed concerns at being faced with the burden of financing seniors' education. Latin is a college preparatory school, and deservingly prides itself on

FORUM

Opinion For Sale

BY FRANKLIN HO, I
FORUM EDITOR

When I neared the entrance of the gym, I noticed that it had been completely transformed. Wires ran everywhere, Secret Service agents scanned everyone with metal detectors and the giant room was packed to the walls—not with students, but with reporters. As the bright lights shone down on the audience, I made my way over to the small cramped space that had been allotted to the school press. And then he emerged, an unwavering smile plastered over his face. He waved, got up to the podium and started talking about the No Child Left Behind Act, yet even as a freshman, I could sense the hot air that was spilling out of his mouth. Four years later, we have yet to see anything come from the empty rhetoric George W. Bush offered that night.

Instead, as we are all well aware, Bush was very efficient at cutting funds shortly after his visit to Boston Latin School and left us with issues such as severe paper shortage. It was like having a one-night stand and stealing the wallet on the way out the door. Despite having been initially supported by Democrats and Republicans alike, the No Child Left Behind Act has since receded from the spotlight mostly due to lack of funding for its goals. That,

and that Bush has not had to worry about expanding his voter pool since November. Ask someone on the street about No Child Left Behind and you'll probably get a blank stare or a confused "I thought it didn't exist anymore."

So, with taxpayer money to burn and no re-election to worry about, what does the Bush administration do? It pays about \$240,000 to journalist Armstrong Williams so that he can promote the act that might as well not exist. After all, maybe the paycheck would be better spent, say, funding No Child Left Behind? Despite his recent proposal to add \$1.5 billion to the NCLB fund, Bush's federal budget for the fiscal year shows no increase in money for education. Obviously, this is a purely representational venture. Aside from being completely misdirected, this action is also illegal. The government is restricted from funding certain causes or taking part in any lobbying, an action that is solely reserved for the masses. But who's really surprised? As we've witnessed before, the president can well do as he likes.

Even more interesting is Armstrong Williams's response when asked about being recruited to promote NCLB: "I wanted to do it because it's something I believe in," he says. Sure, I can completely understand this. After all, I would eat babies too for

a six-figure sum. Here's the kicker: a part of the agreement was for Williams to convince a group of his fellow broadcast journalists, America's Black Forum, to aid in promoting the No Child Left Behind Act. So, now, it's not only one journalist who's being influenced by the White House, but a large group!

The issue here is not the fact that the White House paid \$240,000 to Armstrong Williams—after all, that's small change in the big picture of the federal budget. The problem is that the current administration is now illegally funding its own agenda. Any person who has studied history knows that propaganda is a powerful political tool that can sway the opinions of an entire populace. People look to journalists to get unbiased information, but when reporters such as Armstrong accept endorsements like the one Bush is now offering him, the media is no longer a resource to its viewers but a tool of the government. By involving itself in such a way, the Bush administration is showing that it no longer trusts the press to do its job correctly and it feels that it has the responsibility to interfere and bring the "correct"—the "unbiased"—news to America. It should, however, be the people, not the representatives in office, who are the ones making this judgment and determining the fair from the slanted.

All Pumped Up

BY THOMAS GRAZIANO, II
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

This past fall, baseball looked to be swinging its way back into national favor. The country was captivated by the performance of the "idiots"—turned-world champions reigning from Boston, and the storm clouds gathered during the 1994 players' strike were finally clearing. Widespread steroid fears, however, did much to tarnish the spectacular 2004 season. As players bulked up, balls were hit further than ever and records were smashed.

To address this issue, a lineup of baseball executives and star players was led before the House Government Reform Committee on March 17, 2005. For 11 hours, a panel of class childhood heroes was questioned about the alleged widespread abuse of performance-enhancing drugs in baseball.

Suspicious of steroid abuse had surrounded the national pastime for much of the past decade. First, grand jury testimony leaks in the case of Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi revealed that the two All-Stars allegedly took performance-enhancing drugs. Then Jose Canseco, MVP and steroid snitch, wrote in his best-selling new book "Juiced" about injecting both 70-homerun hitting Mark McGwire and himself with steroids; he observed they were not alone in their drug use. Moreover, the rot had spread to the nation's children as proved by the testimonies of Raymond Garibaldi and Donald Hooton, two men who had lost young sons to steroids. It was at last time for Congress to intervene and prevent future rampant drug use that would undermine not only the health of a sport, but also that of its very athletes. Criticism arose, however, that such an action should not have fallen within the jurisdiction of Congress and, instead, should have been left in the hands of the baseball industry, granting the MLB honchos the exclusive right to determine and rule on steroid policy.

What was a nation to do when

its passion, its sport—so affectionately dubbed "America's favorite pastime"—was falling prey to the dangers of drug abuse and wanton player notoriety?

Congress, in fact, was wondering just what MLB commissioner Bud Selig and company were doing to end this epidemic. The body of representatives was not surprised to uncover, like any other seasoned baseball observer, that the Major League Baseball commission was in fact doing next to nothing when it came to the question of drug-use, as they tested players only intermittently during the off-season. In fact, until 2002, baseball had no steroid policy whatsoever and even now



MARK MCGWIRE TESTIFIES ABOUT HIS USE OF STEROIDS

punishment for the use of performance-enhancing drugs is lax. First-time offenders miss 10 days (five percent of the season compared to 25 percent in the National Football League). A lifetime ban is only instituted after five offenses, compared to the two for the Olympics. Selig argued during the session that "I don't believe we ever had what [Canseco] says is a major problem. There is no concrete evidence of [it]. There's no testing evidence." The commissioner perhaps failed to realize that this lack of evidence was directly proportional to the absence of any kind of drug policy until just three years ago.

There were times during the hearings when Congress embarrassed itself right along with the baseball brass they were questioning. Maryland Democratic Senator Dutch Ruppersberger appeared

to digress completely, asking Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning, opening witness and baseball Hall of Famer, about a pitch he threw to Mickey Mantle. Representative Diane Watson, D-Cal., used her camera time by flashing an 18-year-old Sports Illustrated cover to bash Golden State governor and admitted steroid abuser, Arnold Schwarzenegger. The low point for the committee probably came when Representative Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., made a bizarre reference to the reality show "Extreme Makeover" as a source of the current steroid scandal.

Clearly, some of our elected officials are less than ideal for the task of addressing baseball's rampant drug abuse, but they are nevertheless obligated to take on this issue. The Federally Controlled Substances Act regulates the use of such performance enhancing drugs as steroids. Additionally, since 1922, baseball has been exempt from anti-trust laws, giving the commissioner great power and placing the game squarely within Congress's jurisdiction. Finally, the billions of tax dollars poured into baseball stadium construction during the 1990s, steroids' golden years, give every working American a vested interest in upholding the law in the game of baseball.

These hearings may clean up the game but they will certainly tarnish the numerous players who engaged in such drug abuse. Tearful emotional appeals, however, must be weighed against the knowledge that these players broke the law and would ordinarily be in jail, were it not for their idolization by countless misguided millions. Baseball's current policy is better than no policy, but much work remains to be done. With baseball's failure to internally address its own problems, the burden has been shifted to Congress, which may hopefully begin to undertake the action necessary to save a troubled sport.

And to rescue America's favorite pastime.

Curs'd

BY QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, V
COLUMNIST

Although Opening Day in New York this month ended in a disappointing 9-2 loss to the Yankees, for the first time in 86 years, we of Red Sox Nation no longer had the Curse of the Bambino hovering over us. We had nothing on which to blame Wells's unsatisfactory four and one-third innings, Damon's error, and the poor performance of the first three batters. We also did not have that uncontrollable, supernatural *something* holding back Old Towne's Team from victory.

Fans surprisingly began to dance to a new tune, however, and not one solely of relief. Instead, a new emptiness and loss of identity began to plague the dedicated as they realized that their beloved "idiots" had become champions and that disbelief could no longer be expressed with a "Yeah, and the Red Sox will win the World Series" remark. Feeling empty, I decided to audition a handful of new curses to take Bambino's place:

Curse of Pedro/Curse of the Jberri Curls: Just as the Bambino cursed us for trading him to a later-turned-archrival team, perhaps Pedro Martinez—one of, if not the greatest pitcher in baseball—traded to the NY Mets will...well, I don't know about the Mets becoming our archrivals, but the rest works.

Curse of Fenway Park: the Bambino cursed us for throwing him away, but maybe Fenway will curse us for holding on too long. Plans to build a new park have been shot down time and time again, and the size of management has only increased. Maybe after the Sox take over Yawkey Way, they will continue until they can conquer Boston Latin à la the Crimson Empire. Regardless, Fenway has finally reached its long-awaited goal: bottled water for \$4.25. Oh, and the Sox winning the World Series. Who knows? Maybe they will find in a scientific study that Fenway Franks are poisonous, and then the Curse of the Ballpark Frank will be on us. But seriously, even if the Sox play well, since we have the oldest ballpark in the Major League, built in 1912, with stands that are often uncomfortable and inconvenient to watch a game from we are still cursed.

Curse of the A-Rod: The highest-paid player in baseball didn't help his team as much as previously hoped last season. In fact, he may have helped (via arrogance-turned-mitt-in-the-face and a glove-slapping incident) the Red Sox as much as he did by actually playing for the Yankees. Of course, Boston fans took the chance to ridicule the pride and joy of the Evil Empire. But if he turns around and the Yanks win this year (God forbid!) thanks to him, we can mint a new curse.

Curse of the Over-Analyzing Radio Talk Show: There is probably no other city whose radio talk shows are completely dedicated to analyzing and reanalyzing every second of last night's game. Anyone who's listened to WEEI-AM for more than five minutes knows what I am talking about. If you don't, then tune in to AM 850—you'll see.

As we all know, though, no truly worthy curse ever came easily. Curses are like fine wines. They must be aged over time, left to simmer in resentment, grace sports pages and be debated ad nauseam on the nightly news. It may be another 86 years before Red Sox Nation can finally take to its heart another curse as beloved as the lately lamented Curse of the Bambino.

How About Three and a Half?

By JULIA ARNOUS, III
ANGRY ACADEMIC

Last Tuesday morning, some of the more ambitious sophomore and junior students found memos from Ms. Kelley waiting for them in homeroom. The memos, which started, "FROM: Ms. Kelley, Head Master; RE: Your request to take four AP courses," began by lauding the students' academic strengths. However, for all but the academically pure, bureaucratically connected, or just plain lucky few whose requests were actually granted, everything went downhill from there. Tearful young scholars were sent running from Ms. Mooney-Teta to Ms. Kelley to Mr. Montague and back again, only to learn that absolutely no appeals could be made. The policy of limiting students to three Advanced Placement courses was not, under any circumstances, to be negotiated, as the restrictions were supposedly made in students' "best interests."

This year, there are apparently some juniors who, faced with the trials of taking four AP courses, have received grades as low as A-'s. Some students are even willing to bear the shame of a B-ridden transcript and the disapproval of an Ivy League admissions officer in order to take AP classes from which they actually learn. The behavior of these extremists should not have affected the Administration's decisions in considering current waiver requests. Despite the *appalling* performance of these academic pariahs, a great many juniors are doing exceptionally well in all four of their APs and it is highly probable that, if only given the opportunity, some of the present sophomores (all of whom were denied waivers) could have done the same.

As for the Administration's loving concern that students' health may be forfeited to ordain and establish a more perfect GPA, the students who applied for waivers, mostly academic achievers near the top of their classes, do not really

sleep at all. Sleep deprivation is in many cases the key to success at Boston Latin School, whether anyone wants to concede to this fact or not. When given the choice to continue studying into the wee hours or forsake their averages and crawl into bed, these students consistently choose to keep studying, and the academic results of their choices are lauded at every occasion until Prize Night. For the Administration to feign concern for these students' health—and cite this concern as the reason for denying them the permission to take four AP courses—is not only blatant hypocrisy but a cruel denial of students' daily sacrifices.

In some cases, students without waivers have replaced the AP's they had planned to take with courses in which they have little interest, and devoting forty-five minutes a day to doodling does not prepare them to sit in college classrooms beside those who had full control of their own high school schedules. Students should be free to make decisions for themselves,

since their own futures will ultimately be affected. As some exceedingly wise Greek philosopher once said, it is important to "know thyself." Students at Boston Latin School know themselves. They know how many French vocabulary words they can memorize per T stop, how many formulas they can derive in a study, how many lines of Latin they can translate on the way to class one floor up, and whether or not they can throw together an English paper during lunch. Boston Latin School teaches students, if nothing else, who they are and what they are made of.

It is bitterly ironic that the same students who are glorified for their academic achievements are deemed incapable of making decisions in their own best interests. If these students are as intelligent as they appear to be, why can't they be trusted to have a hand in their futures? The Administration is right: some students simply can't handle four AP's.

But some can.

Too Sexy For Her Job?

By RODLINE LOUIJEUNE, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sexism, racism, and discrimination are undeniably prevalent issues in today's society. However, there are those like Desirée Goodwin, a disgruntled librarian at Harvard University, who would rather take advantage of these issues and exploit them for her own advancement. Of late, Goodwin has been accusing her employer at Harvard of holding her back in the work force, due to her race, provocative attire and attractiveness.

In the last few years, Goodwin has been rejected from various job promotions, all of which she believed were within her qualifications. She claims that

ing the fact that she may be "less qualified" than some whites, she would rather claim that it was her race that held her back. This seems like an unfounded accusation as most policies at Harvard have never been biased towards race.

Besides, since when has being "good looking" hurt anyone's chances of advancement? If anything, the more attractive you are, the easier you have it in life. Nonetheless, Goodwin claims that her superiors told her that because she was a "pretty girl," no one would ever take her seriously. In today's world, however, a pretty girl usually has advantages over "plain janes" or "ugly girls." Quite frankly, Goodwin's abuse of controversial topics makes her an even more unattractive



DESIREE GOODWIN: DID HER APPEARANCE HOLD HER BACK?

not only has she been rejected from these promotions, but also that the people who ultimately attained the positions were both white and less qualified than she. Goodwin, a graduate from Cornell University with two master's degrees, claims that at first her superiors at Harvard had not promoted her because of her inappropriate work attire and because she was a "pretty girl." According to Goodwin, even after modifying her attire, she was still barred from the promotions for which she applied. Following last month's controversy surrounding Harvard President Larry Summers, Goodwin decided to seize the opportunity to claim that she was rejected because of her superiors' "sexist" views.

Goodwin is also using racism, an incredibly touchy subject, as a blanket excuse for her rejection. Instead of accept-

ing the fact that she may be "less qualified" than some whites, she would rather claim that it was her race that held her back. This seems like an unfounded accusation as most policies at Harvard have never been biased towards race.

job candidate. Moreover, whether or not she truly did attempt to tone down her attire to be "less provocative," there is a set standard of proper dress at the workplace. Perhaps her superiors were more conservative than she was and did not appreciate her "fashion sense," a simple matter of opinion. There was no case of racism, sexism or discrimination in Goodwin's case. It is truly shameful that people would take such delicate issues and use them for their own greed. Though it is upsetting to be rejected 16 times for a promotion, such setbacks are no reason to cry out injustice. In this age of lawsuits and fast money scams, it is hard to even remotely credit Goodwin's case. More likely than not, she is merely trying to make some fast cash and getting her 15 minutes of fame by abusing a fragile situation.

Same Difference

By MARY HONG, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

The United States is supposed to be the champion of freedom and equality in society for those of different religions, different races and different genders. We have laws in place to protect one's right to practice religion without discrimination. In a restaurant, should a family be refused service because of ethnicity or skin color, for example, civil suits and outraged accusations of racism fly. Women's Rights organizations are constantly on the lookout for those who would violate the God-given rights of their fellow females. With everything, however, there is a line. How far is too far? These days, we have become so concerned with equalizing people in their differences that we are only accentuating the awareness of difference. Subsequently, instead of integrating society, these attempts only serve to further polarize it. At some point between abolishing slavery and raising a fuss because of "discrimination" against age or attractiveness, we have lost sight of the true meaning of championing freedom and equality. On some level, we have entirely become statistic-sensitive and ultimately separated from reality.

Case in point: the recent debate about public displays of religious affiliation. Last August at an Alabama state courthouse, a huge monument of the Ten Commandments was ordered removed after the religion-conscious opposed this public display of Christianity. Such complaints about religious rhetoric on public property are not new. In fact, dissatisfaction has frequently been expressed with the abundance of religious references in the public arena. However, it cannot be denied that there is a marked Christian majority in this country; we therefore (surprise, surprise) have a prevalence of Christian lawmakers and government officials. Should every sign of Christianity be banned from public view because the sight of it offends a minority? In no way do I suggest we should no longer take into consideration the views of the minority, but merely that in our righteous quest to protect those rights we do not undermine our own goals.

Have these opponents of public displays of religion ever considered that they were limiting the freedom of the

majority? That is exactly what would happen should we sanction the removal of all suggestions of God from public monuments, beginning a long descent towards Orwell's frightful "1984." Take France, for example. Just last year, the French government banned the public display of any religious affiliation in the name of equality. No longer can Islamic girls wear their head scarves to school as their religion and culture dictates, nor can Jews wear their skullcaps. This is not a protection of freedom, but a violation thereof. It is not "equalizing" the population, but attempting to make it generic—to blend society until everyone looks the same—an extreme reaction to the fear of difference.

Some have asked whether this incident is similar in nature to the issue of whether students should be made to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in schools with the words "nation under God" in reference to the United States. The answer is no. Although this seems contradictory, there is actually a very subtle difference separating it from the two aforementioned examples. The Ten Commandments issue is about the breaching of rights, not the restriction of freedom. The creed of freedom and equality is not to limit others or coerce them to do something they do not desire, as in the case of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The most inclusive and most general definition of freedom encompasses freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the vote. And every one of these is based upon the freedom of the will. Respecting the freedom of the will means not regulating all the actions of man and all aspects of life.

As responsible citizens, we must look out for the minority. We should be conscious of our differences, but we should not make these differences the central theme of our daily interactions. When meeting a new person, we ought not be worried about how we may be offending them. In employment and educational recruitment we should not adhere to quotas merely for the sake of numbers and false "equality," but look for merit. When we are able to assess human beings as equals while taking care to help those who are behind, we will no longer be persecuting differences but celebrating the wholly wonderful ways we are not the same.

Parade of Nations

Students display talent and cultural pride at International Showcase

By Atheena Dy, II
Staff Writer

On Friday, April 8th, 2005, the Boston Latin School Desi Society hosted the International Showcase. It was a great opportunity for students to display their talent and represent their culture. Many of the performances were a collaboration between Boston Latin clubs, such as Asian Students In Action, TAG, the Vietnamese Society, the Caribbean Club and several others. Managed by co-presidents of DESI Society, Anushree Ray (I) and Tamkinat Firoz (I), the show was a complete success. Composed of 20 different acts, ranging from cultural dances to short films and songs, the show brought together people of all ages. But of course, such a success could not be achieved without the dedication and sacrifice of the volunteers and performers. When asked approximately how long performers practiced in the auditorium during the week before the show, Anushree responded, "We're usually here from right after school to around 7:00 at night. Sometimes later."

According to Anushree, the show had been in the works since the start of the school year.

The showcase started off with a procession of flags from different countries all around the world. Not all flag-bearers represented their native countries, but they still waved the flags with great pride. The "Parade of Nations" was to signify the unity and peaceful coexistence of nations all over the world. When asked what it was like to perform in the first act of the show, Hai Tran (I) said, "It was a very fun and exciting experience for me." Following the "Parade of Nations" was "Music Africa." Performed by the Nigerian Youth Organization, along with members of the talented



"PRINCESSES OF THE CARIBBEAN," WRITTEN BY SHAINA GILBERT (II), CELEBRATES FEMINISM AND LATIN AMERICAN DANCE.

BY OLIVIA PAQUETTE (II)



FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS DECORATE STAGE AS STUDENTS PERFORM TRADITIONAL TAMIL DANCE

BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

BLS Step Squad such as Mercy Imahiyerobo (I), the dance "trac[ed] stepping back to its African roots," according to the program. One of the many original performances of the night was a Chinese poem written by Su Shi called "Shui Diao Ge Tuo," declaimed with expression and charisma by Cindy Guan (II). Another poem called "The Princesses of the Caribbean," written by

Shaina Gilbert (II), was performed by students representing different countries in Central America. The first half of the show ended with a short film about September 11 by Ford Chung (I) called "Retrospect."

The second part of the show started with the S&F Jazz Band Combo, performed by Andrew Slotnick (I), Aaron Gardony (I), Liam McCabe (I) and Dominic French (II). Later on, the Vietnamese Society performed "Bedazzled" (not to be confused with the movie), a dance with a modern, upbeat tune, which depicted

INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE
Continued on page 12

Senior Strings Pluck Gold from MICCA

BY LAUREN MAKHOLM, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The mention of the MICCA Festival among Boston Latin School students in the music wing prior to April 3 this year was constantly accompanied by sighs and groans. Many students claimed, "We're not ready," or "We don't know our notes," but after the festival, the reaction was not quite so negative.

This year, the BLS Senior Band, directed by Mr. Paul Pitts, earned a silver medal over last year's bronze; Senior Strings, directed by Maestro Ricardo Slevira, earned a gold medal over last year's silver. And what about Concert Choir, you may ask? Director Christopher Charig won't say, nor even knows. He does have the results, but stubbornly claims that "they have nothing to do with what [the choir] did up there." Although even Mr. Pitts has encouraged him to check his envelope, Mr. Charig stands firm, claiming that he will not open it until after the Boston Latin School Music Night on April 28-29.

MICCA, the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors Association, holds festivals once a year. Instrumental and choral groups are judged on a wide range of criteria, including tone, dynamics, blend, expression and articulation.

An expert conductor then critiques the group based on their performance. Boston Latin School sends all three senior concert groups yearly to compete, and there is hope that there will have been improvement in all three groups this year, once Charig opens the Concert Choir's envelope.

The Senior Strings, which have flourished under Slevira's instruction for the past two years, played pieces from Grieg's Holberg Suite and Mendelssohn's String Symphony No. 8. These talented musicians have gained the respect and confidence that accompanies their gold-medal status, and will also be playing at Symphony Hall later this year. Slevira has also promised them a visit to Six Flags Theme Park as a prize for their achievement.

The Senior Band, though tense at first, successfully performed "Marche" from Prokofiev's opera "Love of Three Oranges," Grainger's "Ye Banks and Braes of Bonny

Doon," and "Incantation and Dance" by Chance; they were given a rating of "excellent" by the judges. Monica Mleczo (II), flautist, remarked that there were a few

difficult and complicated spots, and some mistakes were made. Overall, however, it was a good performance.

The Concert Choir was doubtful of success until the end of their performance, but Charig commented that they were better prepared than even he had assumed at first. Although he is new to Boston Latin School, this was not Charig's first visit to the MICCA Festival. He told the choir afterwards that their three pieces—"The Day That Such A Blessing Gave" by Purcell, "And So It Goes" by Billy Joel, and "Locus Iste" by Bruckner—were all performed very well, and again reminded everyone that the medal doesn't count.

This year was a very successful one for the BLS music program, and the judges at MICCA have proved it. One can only hope that next year, with the new talent rising up from the lower grades, BLS will be awarded with gold medals all around. Senior Strings, enjoy your trip to Six Flags!

On April 16, at 10:50 a.m., the Boston Latin School Senior String Orchestra will perform at Symphony Hall as part of Stars at Symphony 2005. See Maestro Slevira for more information.



MAESTRO SLEVIRA PROUDLY DISPLAYS HIS PLAQUE FOR CONDUCTING FROM THE MICCA FESTIVAL.

BY LEAH SKAHEN (I)

A & E

Latin Bands Battle It Out

By **LAURA GRAZIANO, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The third annual Boston Latin School Battle of the Bands, hosted by the Student Council, took place in the Black Box Theater on the night of March 24, 2005. Emcees Jeff Bausemer (I), Meghan Pitts (I) and Leah Skahen (I) introduced all the bands and provided comic relief before and in between sets. Teachers Mr. Thomas Avery, Mr. Ricardo Slevira and Mr. Randall Overbaum, a student-teacher from the music department, sat in as judges. Before and during the show, Amnesty International sold "Save Darfur" bracelets.

The Shift, a four-piece rock group, opened the night with "Ready to Go," one of their original songs sung by front man Evan Gadowski, a student from Quincy. An extended drum solo was then performed by Latin School's own Daniel Attridge (III), one of the many crowd pleasers of the night.

Big Blue took the stage next, and despite ignoring the pleas to perform Britney Spears "Hit Me Baby One More Time," won the audience over with old fan favorites like "Could It Be." Joe Poles (II) showcased his talents on the guitar while Andrew MacTaggart (II) played skillfully on the drums.

Known for their infectious ska-punk style, last year's winner Black Tie Affair came on next, opening with an energetic song sung by the band's new vocalist Sasha. The second song of their set, "When the Storm Clears," was a favorite that would make any Catch-22 fan proud. To the delight of the audience, alto saxophone player Ben Morris (III) exhibited his dancing on the stage during "The Sweetest Girl," an older song, which bassist Mark Duhaime (I) jokingly dedicated to "all the ladies in the house."

Duhaime once again showed off his bass playing skills in Attaboy. Lead vocalist and guitarist Caleb Larson (I) devoted the group's self-proclaimed "snappy" song, "Franklin," to the members of Black Tie

Affair, and provided the audience with one of the catchiest numbers of the night. They performed well during "Listen," despite technical difficulties, which included a knob or two falling off of senior Dave Toro's guitar. Attaboy also filled the room with energy during "Disease," which included a short guitar solo by Toro.

Coming back from a recent show



ATTABOY MEMBERS DAVE TORO (I), PAT DIXON (I), AND
CALEB LARSON (I) TAKE THE STAGE.

at the highly esteemed Middle East night club, punk band Paranoid Army graced the stage next with their thrashing guitar riffs and high-charged political anthems. Scantly clad bassist Richie Corrado (II), a new addition to the band, took over vocals during a cover of Operation Ivy's "Unity." Mike Thomas (II), another new addition to the band, played drums. Johanna Kenney (II), one of the two remaining original members, sang in the third song "World War III," while guitarist Max Davis, from Boston Arts Academy, took over for their final song, "Fitt for Mitt."

Chronic Funk Syndrome, a long-time judge and crowd favorite, and the judges' top pick in last year's Battle,

performed next. Providing a break from the other various fast-paced bands of the night, Chronic Funk Syndrome showed off its smooth sound and style. Junior Dominic French's drum solo during a Herbie Hancock cover was very well received, and senior Andrew Slotnick's performance on the tenor sax in an updated ska version of a song from the 1920s further demon-

strated the band's talent. The group finished off with "Big Bang Theory," a song that recalled the P-Funk stylings of artists like George Clinton.

Lastly, Upstroke Folk, a band led by Louis Frank (I), took the stage in their first show ever. Singing about anything from college to escaping from monsters, Frank and his fellow band members, including Dave Toro and Liam McCabe (I) on drums, ended the event on a high note, and one

would never have guessed that it was the first time that the band had performed live.

While judges were choosing their top three, Jeff Bausemer's reenactment of the dance scene from Napoleon Dynamite and a duet performed by Caleb Larson and Mark Duhaime were just two of the many impromptu performances that entertained the audience. The three finalists were Attaboy, Chronic Funk Syndrome and Upstroke Folk. After an audience vote, Attaboy was announced as the winner of the 2005 Battle of the Bands, and they played one final song as an encore to wrap up the night.

Spotlight

Jesse Racusen



BY CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS

By **JACK PAYETTE, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You can walk through the Boston Latin School hallways and pass by Jesse Racusen without realizing that he is an artist. He does not act or dress differently from his classmates; in fact, he looks just like the average Boston Latin student. But once you really get to know Jesse, you will understand his love and passion for art, which he displays in many different forms.

Jesse is into various types of art, but it is very hard to see his enthusiasm in this area. Jesse's varied interests include painting, drawing and graphic art, but he also has a passion for photography and film. In addition to his other academic work, he is currently a student in Mr. Harris's AP Art class at Latin. Jesse's participation in the arts is not limited to school. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, he jumps on the train to South Boston to participate in Artists for Humanity. AFH, as it is more commonly known, is a non-profit art organization which serves high school students around the Boston area. The program offers mentoring and employment opportunities for young people to create art both during the school year and in the summer. In its 14 years in existence, AFH, now located in a brand-new studio in the Fort Point Channel District, has been helping students from all over Boston to discover and develop their artistic talent.

Through four years of participation in Artists for Humanity, Jesse has seen his skill as an artist improve dramatically. He has sold six paintings to private collectors, for upwards of \$1,000. In addition to his individual projects, he has been involved in the creation process of many murals and community art projects all over the city. One mural in particular, which Jesse created as a joint project with several other artists from AFH, was a modern version of one of Gauguin's famous masterpieces. Jesse has also designed and helped paint murals for the Children's Museum and the John D. O'Bryant High School. Right now, he is working on several paintings, as well as a mural project to be displayed at Logan International Airport.

All art aside, Jesse also happens to be an avid sports fan. He enjoys watching and playing baseball, football and especially basketball. He is an avid Celtics fan, and frequently visits the local YMCA to shoot some hoops. In the past, Jesse has experimented somewhat with movie-making using his digital camcorder, and envisions himself employed in the film industry in the future, possibly directing, editing, writing or producing. For college, Jesse plans to attend Pratt University, an art school in Brooklyn, New York, in order to further develop his passion. Although Jesse Racusen, for the most part, seems like your average high school student, he harbors great artistic talent on the inside.

PSP: Pretty Sexy Portable

By **ALVIN PHU, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Maybe you've seen an ad while riding the train or surfing the Internet for the PSP, also known as the Playstation Portable. This is Sony's latest innovation, which marks the beginning of a whole new line of products. So far, they've brought you the Playstation, the Playstation 2, and now they've released this little wonder. So what's new about it? You may not know it (or even care) but this new device uses the technology of dual processors, the latest technology companies are using for the future Playstation 3 and the Xbox 2. Basically, the technology used here is tantamount or even superior to the graphics of the Playstation 2. Damon Chen (III), owner of a PSP, says of his recent purchase, "The technological advancement in this system is unmatched in any portable system that we have today."

The PSP has a nice design, with 17 buttons which feel very familiar to a Playstation 2 controller. A new innovation which Sony has just come up with is the addition of an analog stick, never before seen on a portable. Though a bit small, the analog stick has a comfortable textured grip. Overall, it shouldn't overstrain your

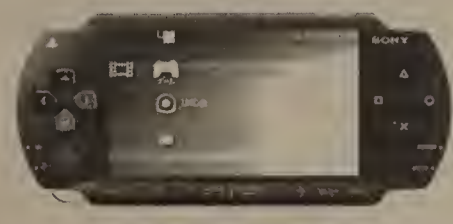
hands if used for a reasonable amount of time. Stephen Lo (III) has only four words to say after taking a look at the smooth and shiny PSP: "Can I touch it?" The entire front of the portable is coated with a special gloss that makes it look appealing. However, smudges always appear even with the cleanest of hands, though they can be wiped off very easily. Just be careful of scratches. Some people have debated the amount of battery power in the device, but tests have proven that the PSP has an average battery life of about six to eight hours, depending on the activity.

Another great addition to the PSP is the Memory Stick Duo. This new but uncommon memory format can be used to store photos, movies and mp3s, which can be viewed or played right on the PSP itself.

The PSP also supports Wi-Fi areas, or Internet hotspots which are broadcast by DSL or cable Internet routers. This basically means that it is possible to play games online, though there are only a few out right now. Sony has also announced that an Internet browser will be released in the near future. So sometime soon, you might be able to go to a local Starbucks and surf the web or play a friend online.

The pricing may be a bit high for

those strapped for cash, but if you do have a spare \$250 in your pocket, this is a highly recommended purchase. The PSP has been on sale since March 24 in the PSP Value Pack. This value pack includes the PSP, headphones and remote, a cleaning cloth, a case, a full UMD movie of Spiderman 2, a battery and adapter (rechargeable), a white carrying strap, a demo disc and a 32MB Memory Stick Duo (though a larger one might be necessary). It might be better to wait for the Standalone Pack, which comes out



SONY.COM

THE PSP FITS COMFORTABLY IN YOUR HANDS. next month at a much cheaper price of around \$150-\$200 but only includes the PSP, battery and adapter. Many PSP games are out right now, including Ridge Racers and Metal Gear ACID, both of which have beautiful graphics and smooth game play. The new Playstation Portable from Sony is a worthwhile purchase, if you have the extra money to spare.

Spotlight Martha O'Connell



BY CHESNUT HILL STUDIOS

BY BORA PLAKU, I
HEAD COPY EDITOR

Observe the female in her territory. Watch as she backtracks, cocking her head. She is dissatisfied. Thick crimson drops cling to her cheek as she strives to complete her instinctive task. Then, in one final stroke, it's over. She jumps back, and raising her face to the sky, feels the full blast of the sun. Finally, with a last satisfactory glance at her work, she seeks water. A true proficient, this lioness...

Just kidding. It's not the mistress of the African Savanna I describe—although, come to think of it, she's not such a bad comparison to Martha O'Connell. After all, working for the City of Boston Mural Crew *does* require the useful traits of a queen of the jungle: fearlessness, untiring energy, patience, agility in climbing trees/scaffolds and high tolerance to the rays of the sun. Panting—*painting*—five hours a day is not easy. Yet Martha manages to do it every week of every summer of every year.

The fivesie version of me quite literally stumbled across Martha in World History, Round One. I was an artist, she was an artist and we both took French. *Voilà!* Instant connection. I got a chance to know her better when, as freshmen, we bonded over the many acute pains of physical education. And then, in the 10th grade, we both had Mrs. Johnson for English. So I got to hear her thoughts and watch her translate them into French the next year in A.P. Lang.

Painting and the visual arts are certainly a major part of Martha's existence. But unlike other artists—me—she can sing, too. Back in ninth grade, in a burst of musical inspiration, I joined the chorus. She was there, too. We did a project together and in fact, her solo may just have saved my *derriere*.

But back to the arts. I could go on and on about the dozens of mural details around Boston that bear the O'Connell mark. The Choppin' Block mural? Big-time detail work. That wall at Symphony? There's a trombone player whose nose is conspicuously Martha-esque. This girl craves art. If she had it her way, she'd probably be out there all year round. Unfortunately, due to the persistence of the New England winter, Martha spends September through May painting indoors—two hours a day, twice a week—in addition to her Art AP commitment. You've probably seen her work. It usually shows up in front of the Boston Public Library. Last year, she produced several of the giant faces hung by the Copley entrance. That's right, people: that Thomas Jefferson was Martha's baby.

Martha and I, I admit, are very good friends. In fact, we have worked alongside each other for three years now. Yet I still marvel at the instinctive skillfulness of her brush as she dabs and blends her way to art. Anyone who sees how she transmits beauty, passion and inspiration onto every canvas immediately knows why Martha O'Connell can paint a masterpiece: because she *is* one.

A & E Desi Holds Int'l Showcase

INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

Continued from page 10

the story of a young girl celebrating the Love Festival. A.S.I.A. performed "Phoenix Reborn," a traditional Chinese fan dance that exemplified the rise and rebirth of the legendary and illustrious phoenix. Like "Bedazzled," the routine was danced to a modern pop song.

The night ended with a stunning performance by the Desi Society, called "Dhoom Machale!" The name of this fusion dance to a modern Hindi song can

be translated as "Let's party!" Performers included Ray, who proved that she did not want to miss out on all the action, along with seniors Trang Le, Lindsay Thornquist, Anusha Anukanth, Carmen Dongo, Wintana Girma, Yvonne Parks, Maggie Chun, Yang Yang, Junior Uditnarrain, Kerby Chan (I) and Monty Kaplan (I). Unfortunately, these are all students who will be leaving us.

Thanks to all those who helped, the show was a great achievement, and those who performed displayed great talent. In

addition, the decorations on the stage were very unique, thanks to Art/Stage Designer William Zolla (I). Unfortunately, there will no longer be a Desi Society next year due to the overwhelming number of graduating seniors, unless another student chooses to carry on the legacy. "International Showcase, however, will continue regardless," says Junior Uditnarrain. Therefore, students and teachers will definitely be looking forward to next year's performance.

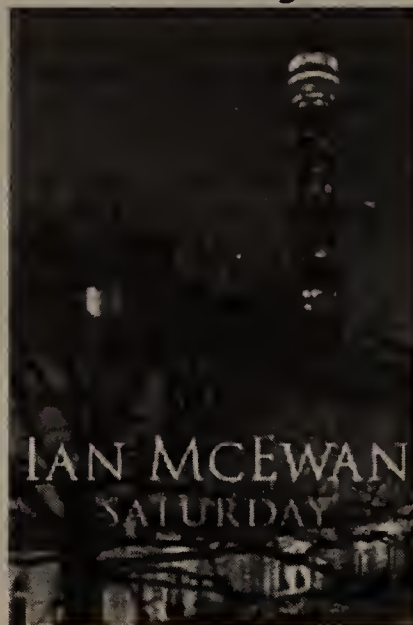
Additional reporting by Soumey Lor, V.

Not An Ordinary "Saturday"

BY ALINA VORONOV, II
STAFF WRITER

"Ian McEwan is one of the most gifted literary storytellers alive," wrote James Wood for *The New Republic*, and with good reason. Ian McEwan, critically acclaimed author of "Atonement," brings to bookstores a new masterpiece in which readers can delight. In "Saturday," McEwan charts the events in the protagonist's life while commenting on poetry, science, philosophy and life itself.

"Saturday" begins early one Saturday morning in the bedroom of a neurosurgeon named Henry Perowne. Disturbed by feelings he cannot quite place, the man walks up to his window to observe not the London skyline, but the shocking sight of an airplane afire and heading away from Post Office Tower. Despite this event, Perowne must go about his day as he usually would, though the day proves to be far from normal. Cleverly intertwining social



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commentary with a "Mrs. Dalloway"-esque plot, McEwan takes the reader on a fast-paced journey into the realms of science and art. The Saturday that McEwan has chosen for his novel is February

15, 2003, at a time when Prime Minister Blair and President Bush have decided to declare war not only on terrorism, but also on Iraq. In addition to providing an opportunity to express views on war in general and even on international affairs, this particular date has given McEwan yet another layer to thicken his plot. Further along in the novel, anti-war protests are staged in London, paving the way for a direct conflict between Perowne and Baxter, a man with whom the doctor gets into a car accident. Perowne must also interact with family members who lead him to consider the strength of human bonds such as love. Each subsequent event in the novel leads to the next, pulling the story forward to a dramatic conclusion.

McEwan raises many questions in this post-9/11 tale, from the personal to the more universal. To what extent should

SATURDAY

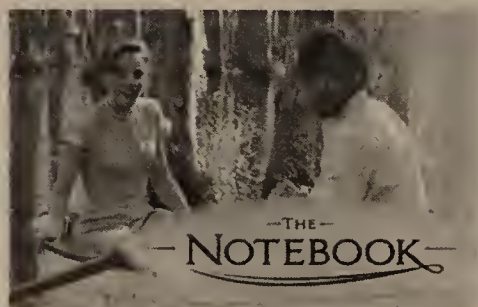
Continued on page 14

Now In a DVD Player Near You

BY NATANAELLE ORISMA, II
STAFF WRITER

Not A Film of "Note"

Family clashes, war tribulations and forbidden love are all themes explored in "The Notebook." Nicholas Sparks's best-selling novel was brought to the big screen by director Nick Cassavetes and New Line Cinema and stars Rachel McAdams, Ryan Gosling, Gena Rowlands and James Garner. The movie opens with an aging man reading a love story from a notebook to an elderly woman. Following this scene, the movie flashes back to the romance of a much younger couple. An hour and a half later, the aging man and woman are revealed to be the couple described in



IRONWOLF.NET

MCADAMS, GOSLING STAR IN
"THE NOTEBOOK."

the notebook. Surprise! "The Notebook" is a disastrous recipe of fake love scenes, cheesy proclamations of affection and several random fights. Peter Travers of *Rolling Stone* magazine writes, "I have the same allergic reaction to this open faucet of tear-jerking swill as I do to the 1996 Nicholas Sparks novel that inspired it." Sadly, millions of Americans are reaching for Benadryl in hopes of curing the same allergic reaction they had from watching this movie. While the film fails to engage viewers, it does succeed in recreating the typical love story which many movies attempt to dress up. A cheap ripoff of

romances like those of Cupid and Psyche and Romeo and Juliet, the movie is so predictable and unoriginal that it will have viewers turning off their sets before the credits roll.

An "Incredible" Family Act

This family superhero pack feature follows the adventures of Mr. Incredible, his wife Elastigirl, his sons Dash and Jack Jack and his daughter Violet as they fight crime and save the world. Using powers ranging from unbeatable strength to unstoppable speed, the Incredibles escape a deadly plan to destroy their family while managing to rescue a few kittens along the way. Other characters like Frozone, Mrs. Hogenson and Buddy bring a variety of performances both vivid and memorable to the screen. Disney and Pixar Animation Studios did a phenomenal job in creating this movie. From the ultra-real cartoon characters to the engaging storyline, the studios succeeded in presenting a truly entertaining feature. "It's easily the best and brightest family-friendly movie of the year," praises Desson Thomson of *The Washington Post*. Two Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature Film and Best Sound Editing are evidence enough to back up that statement. "The Incredibles" combines eye-bulging visual effects, ac-



MOVIE-POSTERS.WS

"THE INCREDIBLES" TAKE ON EVIL

tion-packed plot and constant humor to leave many viewers holding their sides and then attempting the superhero moves themselves. AYAH! For lack of a better adjective, "The Incredibles" was simply incredible.

Sun Sets On Bad Action Flick

Pierce Brosnan and Salma Hayek's attempt to portray slick diamond thieves and hot lovers in "After the Sunset" fails horribly to either entertain or interest an audience. Following the same old cat-and-mouse-chase plot between the FBI and criminals, garnished with flashes of random love scenes, the movie succeeds only in giving Hayek fans a chance to view her prominent cleavage. The weak cast, consisting of Woody Harrelson and Don Cheadle in addition to the wannabe Bonnie and Clyde, further contributed to making the film a catastrophe. Even Bros-



AFTERTHESUNSET.COM

DON CHEADLE LIVES IT UP IN
"AFTER THE SUNSET".

nan's constant eyebrow raises and slick seductive lines couldn't help this movie stay afloat and, just like his paycheck, the film's earnings steadily decreased. Set in the Bahamas, the film did display the tropical beauty of the island and give an inside look into Caribbean culture. Action film fans and Salma Hayek admirers will enjoy this movie while the rest of us wonder where can we get a refund?

Five Centuries Later, "Queen Dido" Still Reigns

BY BEN PARK, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On the morning of Thursday, March 24, 2005, not even rainy weather could dampen the spirits of the AP Vergil class at Boston Latin School. They were off to the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge to see "Dido, Queen of Carthage," by Christopher Marlowe. The Latin scholars convened in Harvard Square before proceeding to the theater with a hearty "Eamus!" from Dr. Peter Cohee. The AP Vergil class was joined by other devoted Latin classes from the Boston area at a special student matinee.

The ART performance of "Dido, Queen of Carthage" was hardly a world premiere (the play was written around 1585), but this version of the tragedy of Queen Dido was brought to life under the direction of Neil Bartlett. The tale on which the play is based has its roots in Vergil's "Aeneid," written in praise of the Roman emperor Augustus. Upon his death, Vergil actually left instructions for the Aeneid to be burned, but Augustus countermanded his wishes. Thanks to Augustus' intervention, more than 2,000 years later students all over the world can appreciate Vergil's masterpiece—and earn college credit at the same time.

"The Aeneid" recounts the intriguing story of Aeneas, a Trojan prince fleeing in the wake of the disastrous Trojan War, who discovers that he is destined to find the Roman race in Hesperia, or Italy. After seven lengthy years of wandering, Aeneas and his companions are blown off course

to the new city of Carthage, ruled by Queen Dido. She welcomes the Trojans and falls madly in love with Aeneas, thanks to a little help from Cupid. Fate, however,

have adored the production or deemed it preposterous, the performance was more than simply enjoyable. The characters were represented vividly, in particular Cu-



DIANE D'AQUILA (DIDO) CALMS A DISTRAUGHT AENEAS (COLIN LANE) AND ASCANIUS (EZRA LICHTMAN) IN CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE'S "DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE."

prevents the two from living happily ever after when Aeneas is reminded of his destiny in Italy.

As was revealed in the Q&A session following the performance, the script for "Dido" has very minimal stage directions. While this meant that the director had to be more creative, the lack of specific directions also allowed the play to be shaped into a form suitable for modern audiences. Whether Vergil himself would

pid, played by John Kelly. Kelly mastered Cupid's playful nature and brought some appreciated humor to the stage, especially in the scene where Cupid disguises himself as Aeneas' son Ascanius in order to apply his love charm to Dido. Also noteworthy were the two female characters portrayed by male actors: Juno (Thomas Derrah) and Dido's nurse (Remo Airaldi). Having Juno's voice suddenly drop down to an uncharacteristically low register was

probably not what Vergil had in mind, but it certainly kept the performance lively and entertaining.

In addition to the production's element of humor, the play was successful in depicting some of the powerful themes embedded in the epic poem's 9,896 lines of dactylic hexameter. Underscoring the entire plot is the omnipotence of the gods and of destiny. In one of the earlier scenes, Venus, Aeneas's divine mother, is concerned for her child: Aeneas has done no wrong, and yet he suffers continuously at the hands of the gods. In the 11th line of the poem, Vergil asks, "*Tantaene animis caelestibus irae?*" ("Can there be such angry emotions in divine minds?") Colin Lane, who played Aeneas, emphasized this with his moving recount of the Trojan War. The notion of fate was further touched upon when Aeneas receives a message from Jupiter that his destiny lies not with fair Dido in Carthage, but in Italy. Both Colin Lane and Diane D'Aquila (Dido) effectively retold Aeneas' painful decision and the unwavering emotion behind it.

While few among us still embark on daring sea voyages to establish future empires, we are nevertheless constantly searching for our place in the grand scheme of things. There are times in our lives when we are confronted by our own destinies and times when we must do the unbearable. These concepts of life from millennia past survive the test of time, and similarly, "Dido, Queen of Carthage" and its story will continue to have meaning long after the curtain closes.

And the Pulitzer Goes To...

BY YUCONG MA, II, AND OLIVIA
PAQUETTE, II
A&E EDITOR & ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

You've seen its seal on countless works of drama and fiction; you've heard its name mentioned in connection with famous authors and playwrights, but if the average high school student is a little hazy on what exactly the Pulitzer Prize is, we won't blame him.

Joseph Pulitzer was a Hungarian-born journalist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who became famous (and also somewhat infamous) in the late 19th century for his creation of "yellow journalism," a method of sensationalizing news to increase readership. Pulitzer became a self-made millionaire through his writing, and, before his death in 1904, made provisions in his will for a board of trustees to award thirteen prizes yearly to the best pieces in journalism, letters and drama, education and travel in the United States. Today, the Pulitzer Prizes are still awarded nationally for excellence in journalism, in subcategories such as investigative reporting, black and white photography and distinguished criticism. Over the years, the administration of prizes has also expanded to include categories such as poetry, music and non-fiction.

This year's 21 Pulitzer Prizes winners, announced on April 4, include two individuals from the Boston area. The Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting, notable in the journalism category, was awarded to Gareth Cook of *The Boston Globe* for a series of articles on the "scientific and ethical dimensions of stem cell research." A resident of Jamaica Plain, Cook has been on the *Globe's* Health and Science staff for five years. His seven nominated pieces used both technical explanations and personal stories of individuals to draw readers in to the issues of stem cell research. Cook's

award marks the 18th Pulitzer Prize for *The Boston Globe*.

The prize for History, awarded yearly to the best book on the history of the United States, went to David Hackett Fischer, a professor at Brandeis University. His work "Washington's Crossing" deals with the extraordinary efforts of an outnumbered and struggling Continental Army during the Revolutionary War battles at Princeton and Trenton. Fischer argues



ONE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS' PULITZER-WINNING PHOTOS DEPICTS U.S. MARINES PAYING THEIR RESPECTS TO A FALLEN COMRADE AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN RAMADI.

that the Continental Army's perseverance and unexpected victory at these two battles turned the tide of the revolution in favor of the colonists. Previously noted works by Fischer include "Albion's Seed," "The Great Wave" and "Paul Revere's Ride."

The History prize is only one of seven in the category of Letters and Drama. In addition to historical literature, the Pulitzer board also honors excellence in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Biography, as well as Poetry and Drama. Pieces selected in Fiction and Drama generally deal with "American life." This year's winner of the Pulitzer for Fiction is "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson, a stunning account of family relationships spanning three generations, from the abolitionist movement to the Eisenhower

years. Equally impressive is the Drama award winner "Doubt," a parable by John Patrick Shanley which recently opened on Broadway. Set in the Bronx, this play draws on the recent church sex scandal involving Catholic priests, and gives the play more of an emotional depth.

With twice as many awards as Letters and Drama, Journalism is honored in 14 different categories, including prizes for reporting, photography, and cartooning as

at an Oakland hospital. Her fellow finalists for Feature Photography, Jim Gehrz of the *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Luis Sinco of the *Los Angeles Times*, both received recognition for capturing scenes of U.S. troops in Iraq. Also notably, the *Associated Press* Staff was given the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography, recognizing their photo series of "bloody yearlong combat inside Iraqi cities."

The Pulitzer Prizes, as stated in Joseph Pulitzer's will, are awarded by Columbia University. Each year, 102 judges are selected to choose three finalists for each prize from a total of over 2,000 entries submitted by the public. The final nominations are then reviewed by the Pulitzer Prize board, led by the president of Columbia University, currently Lee C. Bollinger. The board's decisions are announced in April, and a small ceremony is held in May for distribution of prizes. Every year, winners in 20 of the 21 Pulitzer categories are awarded with a monetary prize of \$10,000.

Only the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service receives a gold medal. The award recognizes a newspaper that exhibits "meritorious public service... through the use of its journalistic resources." This year's winner is the *Los Angeles Times*, whose investigation into severe malpractice at the Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles led to the closing of the hospital. The *Boston Globe* received a gold medal in 2003 for its coverage of sexual abuse by priests in the Roman Catholic Church, reporting of which, said the Pulitzer Prize board, "stirred local, national and international reaction, and produced changes in the... Church."

Though only a few out of more than two thousand are awarded for their journalistic and literary work, every photograph, article and play still remains on display for others to appreciate.

Auto Art at MFA

By Andrew Klein, IV
Staff Writer

The name of Mercedes-Benz, along with brands such as Ferrari, Porsche and the now out-of-business Bugatti, has long been synonymous with luxury and extraordinary automobile innovation. Clothing designer and car enthusiast Ralph Lauren was fortunate enough to obtain cars built by these four companies in addition to the other luxury brand automobiles in his possession. Through July 3, 2005, the Museum of Fine Arts is devoting an entire exhibit to 16 cars of Lauren's extensive car collection entitled "Speed, Style, and Beauty: Cars from the Ralph Lauren Collection." Notable among these are rarities, such as a 1930 Mercedes-Benz SSK and a 1938 Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic Coupe, of which only three were made. One of the most eye-catching cars at the exhibit is a red Alfa Romeo 8C2900 Millie Miglia, which an onlooker described as a "mechanical and artistic brilliance."

The MFA has recently advertised the car exhibit in *Sports Illustrated*, a magazine circulated amongst the sport-savvy and diehard fanatics. While it appears that the MFA has a positive mission in wanting to diversify the museum by displaying an exhibit entirely devoted to cars, the real question is, are automobiles actually "art"? Do they really belong in a fine arts museum with masterpieces by Van Gogh and Rembrandt? Perhaps these technological wonders would be a better addition to, say, the Museum of Science or a museum with more focus on cars, such as the Museum of Transportation in Brookline.

Darcy Kuronen, curator of the exhibit, believes that this is not the case. She claims that "the line and shape of these cars are no less impressive than the works of brilliant sculptors." At the exhibit, one could, in fact, get a sense of the artistic design put into constructing the attractive forms of these automobiles. It is explained in the exhibit that the majority of the automobile companies represented at this exhibit hired specialized "artists" called coachbuilders to design and construct a body that would fit over the car frame and engine. A coachbuilder would approach the design of a car body in a way similar to how a painter might envision his own masterpiece. Pinin Farina visualized the body of the 1954 Ferrari 375+ in his mind and then proceeded to construct it. Thus, the work and design of coachbuilders such as Farina could certainly be considered art.

Whether you do or do not believe that the contents of this new exhibit can be considered art, it is clear that the MFA is putting a noble effort into attracting a more diverse crowd. This exhibit is definitely worth attending, even for people who are not particularly interested in cars. The exhibit also details the effect each car had on its era and mentions some celebrity owners of the automobiles. It is surprising to discover how big an impact these cars had on their generation. There is a great deal of history revealed about each car company, as well as an extensive explanation about the "art" of coachbuilding. Only after you see the exhibit for yourself can you judge whether it is art or not.

An End to Late Fees?

By Olivia Paquette, II
Assistant A&E Editor

It looked good on TV. Crowds gathered in front of the video store as a huge banner was dramatically unfurled, proclaiming gloriously, "The End of Late Fees." Cheers and shrieks of joy filled the air. Perhaps an exaggeration, but yes, it did look good. Almost too good to be true.

Indeed, like most good news, the commercial for Blockbuster's new policy regarding late fees involved some fine print. Following its advertising campaign for the "End of Late Fees" program, which began in January of this year, Blockbuster has been accused of deceiving customers by failing to make the details of its policy clear.

Blockbuster's policy promises an "end" to late fees by allowing customers to return movies and games up to one week after the due date at no charge. However, after one week, the rental will be converted to a sale, and the full price of the item will be charged to the customer's Blockbuster account or credit card. If the item is then returned within 30 days, the cost for the purchase of the movie is refunded, but a restocking fee of \$1.25 is charged. After 30 days, the sale is final and items cannot be returned.

Accusations against Blockbuster claim that the time limits and restocking fee involved in the new policy were not adequately explained to the public. Blockbuster was also charged with failing to clarify that its new policy would not apply to all of its 9,000 locations

nationwide, but only to participating stores.

Last month, Blockbuster paid a \$630,000 settlement to 47 states, which investigated its advertising as a possible case of consumer fraud. Blockbuster's policy was first challenged in February by New Jersey Attorney General Peter Harvey, who sued the company for what he claimed was a violation of New Jersey's consumer protection laws. Talks still continue between Blockbuster and New Jersey, which was not included in the recent settlement.

As part of the agreement, Blockbuster must state the full terms of its "End of Late Fees" policy wherever the program is advertised. Stores will also be supplied with brochures and notices to inform customers of details regarding late returns. Customers who reported that they were not told the full terms of the policy, and were unexpectedly charged with a restocking fee or the full price of an item, may be eligible to receive refunds from Blockbuster.

The company's website www.blockbuster.com now includes a new section of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the late fees policy. The details of the policy are explained, and the terms of the settlement briefly described as an effort "to provide more information about the program and how it works."

"Although we believe our original communications were clear," reads the site, "we're happy to do whatever we can to improve our communications to further enhance our customer experience."

BLStyle Watch: Spring Trends

By Coco and Karl, ?
Fashionistas Extraordinaires

Yay! Spring has sprung and that means it's time for the cutest, most colorful and most comfortable clothes of the year.

Long shorts: I know what you are thinking. Hey now, that's an oxymoron! It's crazy, but bear with me. If you've seen the ads for Old Navy's Bermuda shorts, you know that this trend has hit the mainstream. After being worn by fashionable celebrities, the trend of longer shorts, cutoffs and Bermudas is now wearable for anyone. But remember, these pants can make a girl look boyish, so pair them with a cute top and bold jewelry.

Flats: Although these made a big appearance at school during winter, flats are technically a springy sort of footwear. These shoes are perfect because they are so versatile; you can dress them down with jeans and a button-down shirt or

dress them up with a flirty knee-length skirt, all the while feeling comfortable. Flats with a rounded or very pointy toe are both flattering.*

Slouchy Bags: This new trend, like flats, is popular in metallic colors such as silver and gold. This type of handbag is usually quite big, the kind you have to fish around in for your stuff, but paired with some big sunglasses and a nonchalant attitude... well, you're basically the coolest cat on the streets.

Cutoff denim skirts: These are the ultimate cute fashion statement if you wear them right. Wearing a cutoff skirt wrong means pairing it with a too-high shirt and big sneakers. Instead, try it with laid back sandals and a relaxed tee-shirt or tank to balance the sexiness of a skirt that says, "Yeah, I was longer before, but I just wasn't showing enough leg so I decided to rip a few inches off."

Beaters: An ugly name, but a cute and surprisingly useful shirt. This versatile

wardrobe essential can be worn in countless ways. The undershirt: Who has ever had a problem with your pants being a little too low and your shirt a little short? If you want to preserve your modesty and still look hot, just rock a beater underneath whatever tee you're planning to wear; it's also a great way to make a sheer tee wearable. The overshirt: Love the bright colored skinny strap tanks that are in now? Wear one under a beater for a cool and unexpected look. Adorned: Just because it's a beater doesn't mean it needs to be plain. Attach a rhinestone brooch or a ribbon to one of the straps. All by itself: Who can deny the attraction of the perfect, simple, timeless beater?

Bright Colors: Ever noticed how everything is better in the spring? People are happier, the weather is warmer, and clothes are about one million times better. Shedding their somber shades, the clothes in stores now are bright and fun. Suggestions? We love turquoise, and you do not

have to be a prep to adore pink and green (together, bien sur).

The Flouncy Skirt: This skirt comes in so many variations that you're sure to find something to fit your personal style. Go the more traditional and casual route with a tiered stretchy cotton mini, or experiment with a longer, hippy-style skirt. But please, no excessive flowers or beads. That said, peace.

OUR IDOLS!

Shout out to Melanie Leung and Ben Bernard, voted this year's Best Dressed seniors. Melanie describes her style as European and says she loves blazers, off-the-shoulder shirts, and heels. Ben, a true prep, favors traditional elements like polo shirts, but updates his look with trendy sneakers. He advises BLS that "classic will always be classic."

Congratulations, Melanie and Ben! You amaze us with your original and fabulous style.

"Saturday" Evokes Post 9/11 Thoughts

SATURDAY
Continued from page 14

revenge be sought? How strong is love? What is the role of fate in life? What is the effect of setting time-keepers, such as clocks or calendars, on life? At what point can one let go, whether of a human relationship or otherwise? These are the issues that the protagonist must face as a consequence of events he sets into motion. One key element of this story is the modern setting in which Saturdays are not as they once were. Saturdays, unfortunately,

are just as susceptible to unexpected events as any other day, despite Saturdays being symbolic of freedom and relaxation. Perowne, expecting an ordinary Saturday for relaxation and playing squash with his American friend, is in store for much more than that.

The author takes the readers into the head of the main character, making the novel more of thoughts than actions. Perowne, a very intelligent neurosurgeon, is quite adamant about his views. This Saturday has allowed him to determine the role his family members play in his

life and to consider the future with a more realistic outlook. He begins to understand that old age and death are inevitable, and that he is ready for both. He has dealt with love, war and forgiveness all in a day. Such a turn of events seems unrealistic for anyone today; nevertheless, McEwan is able to produce a satisfying conclusion for his readers. Perhaps he means to lighten the mood of our everyday lives, not quite belittling the effects of certain events and actions, but definitely putting them into perspective.

McEwan's writing is superb. His sen-

tence structure, style and length make the novel an easy read, though it also contains some graphic scenes, which may not be appropriate for younger readers. McEwan's diction reveals a unique creativity, and his metaphors, many of which appropriately enough deal with science, are excellent. McEwan's use of scientific terms does not burden the reader. Instead, it clarifies certain concepts in a way that the reader would not have thought of before. With "Saturday," McEwan proves that he is a unique author. "Saturday" is no ordinary book, just as it is no ordinary day.

Boys' Hockey: The Real Deal

By CAROLINE SULLIVAN, I
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin School boys' hockey team capped off a great season with the ultimate prize: a state championship. On March 20, 2005, the Wolfpack stunningly brought home Latin's first ever boys' hockey state title. About 10 seconds into the Division II State Championship game at the Fleet Center, Forward Tommy DeRosa (II) scored off a pass from Captain Sean O'Brien (I), giving the Wolfpack the early lead. Just two minutes later, Saugus player Nick Serino slid the puck past Latin Goalie John Bruno (I), tying the score at 1-1. There the score remained for the rest of the period, as the stellar defense, led by O'Brien, Assistant Captain Paul Hynes (I) and sophomore Tom Regan held off the tenacious Saugus offense.

The second period brought more action-packed hockey. Both teams came out hard, but it was Saugus who struck first on a goal by Matt Serino. The Saugus defense kept the Wolfpack from scoring for the rest of the period, and Latin entered the final period of regulation play down by one goal. Eventually, Jimmy Ennis (II) was able to sneak the puck past the Saugus goalie, tying the game at two. That was how the third period ended, and the teams headed into sudden death overtime.

As overtime began, both teams took

incredibly hard shots and both goalies made excellent saves. However, on Latin's

O'Brien victoriously held the trophy over his head for all of his teammates and fans



DIVISION II STATE CHAMPION BOSTON LATIN WOLFPACK

eighth power-play of the game, DeRosa unleashed a slap shot that soared past the goalie's glove, thereby ensuring the Wolfpack's first state title. As soon as the goal was scored, the Latin bench emptied and celebrated at center ice. By far one of the best moments was when Captain

to see. O'Brien said after the victory, "It's surreal. As an athlete, you really can never imagine playing your last game and going out on top. It's something special." The road leading up to the final game at the FleetCenter was nothing short of spectacular. The boys were seeded

second in the Division II South bracket, with a record of 14-1-5. They handily defeated their first opponent, Nauset, by a score of 10-4. The Wolfpack then felled the mighty Marshfield team by a score of 7-1. Finally, in the third round of the tournament, Latin faced some stiff competition. The Wolfpack had to face Coyle-Cassidy, the number one seed in the bracket. Latin scored first, but the scoring went back and forth all game. Finally, with less than two minutes left and the score tied at five, DeRosa scored the game winning goal that sent the boys to the FleetCenter.

And so the magical 2004-2005 season ended. The boys had their State Championship title, and the school had a team to cheer for during the cold winter months. When asked about his final thoughts on the season, the young, philosophical Regan said, "Our goal from the beginning was to be in the FleetCenter at the state finals. We were never satisfied with just a win streak here and there in the season." As Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, defeat is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." Sadly, the boys must continue on without their adored seniors O'Brien, Hynes, Bruno, Richie Karski, Billy Doogan and Greg Galante. The Wolfpack, however, will return next year as the reigning Division II State Champions, and they'll undoubtedly have another successful season.

Latin Softball Ready To Improve

By KATIE BALACONIS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the first hints of spring begin to show, the Boston Latin girls' softball team is gearing up for another tough but hopeful season. Losing only two players, they hope to build upon last year's 4-16 record and make a run for the state tournament. Although their season might not have looked very successful on paper, they scored huge upsets against Wayland and Westford Academy. This year, these should act as confidence boosters, considering they are playing some of the best teams in the state. Caroline Sullivan (I), the team's captain

and Dual County League All-Star, is optimistic. Sullivan says: "This season we're going to have a strong team. Since we only lost one senior last year, we have many returning players. We didn't do so well last season, mainly because we had a very young team. However, we lost both games to last year's DCL Champs, Newton-South, by only one run each. I think that if we take the experience that we gained last year and pair it with all of the talent that we have on the team, we will have a great season." The squad this year is composed of both veterans and newcomers. On the mound is Katie DiMeo (V). Don't let her age fool you. Last year, she tal-

lied 100 strike-outs, was hailed one of the best pitchers in the league and was named a league all-star. Laura LeBlanc (II), Liz Balacanis (II) and Kathleen Roche (IV) will add depth to the lineup and provide a solid defensive infield for DiMeo. Maura Donnelly (II) and Taylor Speranza (II) in the outfield offer incredible range with lightness of foot, making impossible catches possible. Add their speed to Sullivan's and the Wolfpack will be stealing a lot of extra bases from their opponents. Sullivan summarizes this year's lineup: "Our entire infield is returning from last season, so I think that there

will be no problems there. There will be some new players in the outfield, but I am confident that everyone will do well. We have a young battery with two eighth graders, but there is no doubt in my mind that they will be able to compete with the juniors and seniors on the other teams. As long as everyone starts hitting our weak point last year, then we will be a contender in the DCL." These girls are just now leaving the gym for the field in their season opener against Bedford. And just as spring brings hope to all those downtrodden by winter, this rejuvenated team will surely bloom.

Boys' Track Ready To Make A Run

By SAM AKIBA, I
SPORTS EDITOR

As the weather warms up, the Boston Latin boys' track team moves from indoors to outdoors. Every day after school they take a trip over to Roberto Clemente field for practice. Headed by Coaches Pritchard, Taylor and McCol-lum, the team is preparing for rigorous Dual County League opponents such as Lincoln-Sudbury, Acton-Boxboro and Wayland. This year's team, however, hopes to rank in the top three in the DCL, as well as have a good number of athletes qualify for the Division I Championship. With the dedication they display at practice, the boys' goals are most likely within reach. This year's team puts forth decent competitors in field events such as the javelin, shot-put and discus. They are, however, without a hurdling team or pole vaulting as the City of Boston does not allow high school teams to participate in the event.

This team's strength lies in the short (100m and 200m) and long (one-mile and two-mile) distance running events, as well as the relay races (4x100m and 4x400m). The team lacks middle distance runners, therefore the long and short distance runners fill the spots. Some of the students who will take on the versatile roles for this year's team are Sean O'Brien (I), who competes in the 200m, Josh Speicher (I) who does shot put, javelin and discus, Mike Lipuma (I) who runs the 200m, and Robert Deegan (II) who runs the two-mile. The talented 4x400 team is made up of O'Brien, Lipuma, Deegan and Jimmy Ennis (II), and the lively 4x100 team consists of O'Brien, Jimmy Nguyen (I), Steve Armandt (I), and Victor Munoz (III). The boys certainly

make up an exciting team. If you want to watch this talented group in high competition, you have the opportunity on April 30 at the the Division I state relay meet, on May 14 in the Coaches Invitational, on May 18 at the DCL Championship and in many other events, which can be accessed through the BLS website.



RETRACTION

On behalf of the 2004-2005 *Argo* sports section, we would like to retract the previous boys' track article. The sources quoted were not accurate and the information stated was incorrect. In addition, there were unfair allegations made about the team. The article was mistakenly printed and the sports section editors take full responsibility for the errors. Once again, we apologize to the boys' track team, their coaches and Boston Latin School.

From the Editors of the *Argo*

Spotlight

Sean O'Brien



CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS LTD

By MELISSA GILMORE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sean Patrick O'Brien, or "Spo" as he is called by many, is always one to stand out wherever he is. Whether he's on the football field, the hockey rink or sprinting around the Fens, Spo's talent is noticed by many. Another factor that draws attention is his full, shiny head of hair. In fact, Spo is notorious for proudly keeping his long black locks flowing and tangle-free. He was even nominated for Best Hair, but was edged out by Franklin Ho.

Ever since he was a little boy, Sean has been an athlete. When he was just six years old, he started playing Parkway Soccer and Hyde Park Baseball. In the second grade he put on a pair of skates for the first time, never imagining someday he would be the captain of a Division II State Championship team.

Spo's many athletic abilities have been demonstrated in Boston Latin sports. As a freshman, Sean started playing golf and his natural skills were quickly proven when he won the Mayor's Cup that very season. The same year, Spo's Varsity hockey career began at the Latin School; as a senior, Sean, with his solid background on the ice and intense leadership skills, gained the role as the elected captain of the team. His hard work and dedication was acknowledged when he was selected as a DCL All-Star. Thanks to his many talented teammates, Spo's last season of hockey at Boston Latin was one he will never forget.

A true athlete can shine in any sport, and that is exactly what Sean does. As a junior in first year on the team, Sean became a DCL All-Star of outdoor track. Again his leadership skills were noticed and he was elected captain for his senior year. In addition, he was a valuable wide receiver and linebacker to this year's football team.

Spo always finds a way to be around sports. If he's not playing one, you can find him refereeing or scorekeeping children's youth hockey, caddying at the golf course or chanting as loudly as he can from the stands, supporting another Wolfpack team.

Sean's more than a great athlete; he's a supportive teammate and admirable friend. Paul Hynes, assistant captain of the hockey team and one of Sean's close friends, states, "Spo, besides his sick flow, smoothness with the ladies and his comical use of *Dumb and Dumber* lines at the end of his dates (Did I mention he was single?), proved to be a great leader throughout the season. His hard work and never-give-up-attitude set the tone for our games and helped us bring home the state title."

Spo even finds time in his busy life to volunteer: he helps out the Church Youth Organization, and referees for youth hockey teams. Next year, he plans to attend Arizona State University, although he was also accepted to Lake Forest in Illinois. Wherever Sean O'Brien ventures next year and beyond, his charm, good looks and athleticism will gain him respect as easily as they have at Boston Latin.

SPORTS

Girls' Tennis Takes The Court

By RON BOWER, II
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin girls' tennis team is ready to re-establish its dynasty. In 2001, the girls were the first team in BLS history to win a State Championship. From 2001 to 2003 the girls posted a 74-0 record, winning States all three years. The 2004 season performance deteriorated slightly as core members of the team graduated in 2003. They went 13-5 and watched Concord-Carlisle take the crown. Concord-Carlisle still looks to dominate, as they haven't lost a single senior and added depth with a new young threat.

Since the first State Championship, expectations have been high for BLS. Captains Emma Halas-O'Connor (I), Reema Hamad (I), Ania Preneta (I) and Tara Banani (II) were all on the team during the 74-win run, and aspire to have a great season once again. It was thought that the girls would collapse without their All-Stars. The team did not go undefeated or win the State Championship, but proved they could hold their own. This season will be much easier for the tennis

team as it is no longer in the spotlight. The boys' hockey is the current team resting on its laurels, allowing the girls to do what needs to be done without any worry. Confidence is high and the seniors look to close out their Latin career with one more championship win. The most important matches of the season will be on April 29 and May 20, when the previous two State Champions collide.

Newton South gave the Wolfpack two of their losses last season. The second loss closed out 2004 for the Pack, ending any hope for a four-year streak. Revenge will be the theme when the girls duke it out with the Lions on April 11 and May 6. As predicted, Barnstable was the first team to fall at the hands of the girls this season. On April 1, the Wolfpack beat the Red Raiders 4-1.

One of the strengths this year are the sisters, Reema and Lara Hamad (II). They are some of the best doubles partners in the league. Practicing with each other their whole lives has made it easy for one to know what the other is doing.

Every day the boys' and girls' teams head out to the Sportsman's Tennis Club to

hone their skills. A common motivational tactic is the challenge match. Coaches assign their players matches against one another, and the winner moves up the depth chart as the loser moves down. Challenge matches are the easiest way to see who the best players are.

As shown by the challenge matches, 2005 will be an awesome year for the girls tennis team. They have practiced with various tennis training programs in the off-season and participated in United States Tennis Association Tournaments. The Junior Varsity team is very young, but some prime prospects have emerged, including Megan Mulrooney (VI) and Catarina Coinsalves (VI). Now practicing with the Varsity, Coach Wilson put the sixties into a challenge match for doubles with the Hamads, which was nothing short of a battle.

Boston Latin was unbeatable for three consecutive seasons, and the girls have the same aspirations this year. At the moment, the strong and experienced C-C stands in their way, but the Latin girls are not intimidated. They have no reason to be.

Girls' Track Up And Running

By NICK MILANO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every spring, as the melting snow reveals the green grass hidden beneath, the girls of the Boston Latin School Track and Field team get ready to take on rival track teams. This team is a tightly-knit group of girls who come together every spring to do what they love.

Spring track and field is not only made up of running events like relays, sprints and long-distance events, but also field events like shot put, javelin, discus, high jump, long jump and triple jump. These events are not the most popular, but they are key to a competitive track and field team. A few other events in track are four-member relays with distances of 100m or 200m, shorter sprinting events of 100m or 200m, and long distance events of one or two miles.

The girls practice most days after school at Clemente Field, which is just a short walk from Latin School. Unfortunately, they have no true "home field" and as a result, all their meets take place at other schools. The track team, like all other Latin athletic teams, competes against the competitive "hyphenated" teams of the Dual County League, such as Acton-Boxborough, Concord-Carlisle, and Lincoln-Sudbury.

This year, the Boston Latin team is relatively young, with only four seniors leading the way: Felicia Waldron, Jamie Fu, Megan Thompkins and Kelly Crittenden. The junior class is well represented on the team, with Shawna Sinnott, Shaina Gilbert, Michelle Finley and Alberta Wright. The many freshmen and sophomores include Ally Gittens (IV), Naomi Harmon (IV) and Caroline O'Laughlin (III).

Hopes for this year are high, but more important is the bond the girls have formed with each other. The focus of the team is helping each teammate succeed, and working hard is more important than finishing first. Jane Holmes (II) agrees, "One of the best things I can say about track is that everyone is really nice and

We are very excited to welcome
Walter McCarty
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Walter and A Step Ahead are teaming up to offer players the chance to learn life and basketball lessons from an NBA professional. Walter has played the game at the highest levels - both in college (Kentucky) and in the NBA with the local team.

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Week 2 runs July 18th - 22nd
8:30AM - 2:30PM
Boys and Girls ages 9-17

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To register visit the JCC website at <http://www.jcc.org/>

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August 8th - 12th / Boys and Girls ages 10-17
August 15th - 19th / Boys and Girls ages 10-17
All clinics at Cabot are 8:30am to 2:30pm

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Newton Boys & Girls Club

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SAM ARIBA (I)

GIRLS TRACK TEAM DURING PRACTICE AT CLEMENTE FIELD

accepting of each other." The team has great character, which is apparent in every member. As Alberta Wright (II) says, "The track team is such a fun team to be part of; the girls are all fun and talented."

Track and field is not as widely-known as other spring sports like baseball and softball, but it is the favorite of a number of girls and boys in this school who participate every year. The girls who run track, throw javelin and perform the high jump are very proud of their sport, as they should be. You probably walk by a member of the team at least once, but more likely twice or three times between classes. If you happen to see a group of girls in purple warming up around the gym before practice or getting ready to board the bus before meets, they are the track team, another important element of the Latin school community.

SPORTS

Latin Baseball To Take Their Cut At '05

By PAUL POKASKI, II
STAFF WRITER

Unfortunately, 2004 will be remembered as a disappointing season for Boston Latin School baseball. The team finished with a 9-10 record, placing them only one win short of qualifying for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

postseason tournament. While earning second place with a 9-7 in the Dual County League, the Wolfpack did not fare well against its non-league opponents. Pitted against tough opposition, the team lost the three out-of-conference games.

Some may point to those losses as the reason for the Pack's failure to extend the season, and others may suggest that

if they had played the usual 20 games instead of 19, they could have squeaked out the extra win that they needed. However, the fact remains that the team just did not play well enough to qualify. As a team, the Wolfpack batted only .273 last season.

BASEBALL

Continued on Page 19



THE VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM BEFORE A HOME GAME IN SOUTH BOSTON

Spotlight

Felicia Waldron



CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS LTD

By LEIGH RICHIE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are very few students at Boston Latin School who would be able to handle playing on three varsity teams a year, one per season. The Class of 2005's very own Felicia Waldron, however, has not only been able to do so, but she has excelled at all three sports. She's a baller, a thrower and a runner, participating in cross country in the fall, basketball in the winter and track and field in the spring.

Felicia's most beloved sport is basketball. The 5'9" player has definitely excelled in this activity. Felicia joined the girls' freshman team as a fivesie and steadily worked her way up to Junior Varsity and finally Varsity in two years. The coaches couldn't miss her tenacious style of play on the court. Felicia is excellent at using her height and size to pull down rebounds and put the ball back up for any extra points she can manage. Over the years, she has managed to be fouled so much that she has become a sharpshooter at free throws.

Felicia also displayed her coaching techniques as a co-coach for the victorious students at the Student vs. Faculty game. In fact, she enjoyed it so much that she hopes to work as a coach or counselor at a basketball camp this summer.

For four years, Felicia has played in the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League. Last year, her South Boston team was the runner-up for the title of "Best BNBL Team in the City." It doesn't stop there: Felicia also won the "Best Hustler" award last year at the Boston Player's Edge, a basketball clinic in Brockton.

In the 10th grade, Felicia decided to give another varsity sport a shot by joining the outdoor track team, in which she is still active. She is very flexible, contributing her strength and speed to the team. She throws the shot put, discus and javelin, and she runs both the 100m and 200m races. Felicia's interest in running also led her to join the Varsity cross country team as a senior this year, proving that it's never too late to try something new.

Felicia is more than an athlete. She is an interesting and funny person. A fiend for junk food, she can be found in the snack line every day. She is quick to flash a smile and even faster to step on her own toe. Although accident-prone, Felicia is still graceful on the athletic field, where it matters.

Believe it or not, Felicia does find time for homework. This year, she is taking three AP classes. Recently, she learned that she has been admitted to Stonehill College. If she heads off to Southern Massachusetts this fall, she is destined to be a star on the Division II basketball team. Way to go, Felicia!

Boys' Volleyball Set To Rebuild

By AMY ZENG, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's spring and it's time to start rebuilding the boys' volleyball team. Last year, the Boston Latin boys claimed their first-ever Eastern Alliance Championship, but played only two games in the state playoffs before they were eliminated. Will this year's group be able to snatch another EA title or will they let it slip through their fingers?

The boys have a long way to go. After six seniors graduated last year, the team lost its main attacker, setter and blocker, all crucial positions. Moreover, the current varsity team consists of only 11 players, with half of the team being rookies. The majority of these fairly new players, however, have had prior experience from playing inside and outside of school. Many players, including veterans, took the initiative to train off-season and strengthen their individual abilities.

From the looks of it, this is a five-star team; competent players have filled the vacant offensive slots left by the seniors last year. Gordon Hoang (II) and Arnold But (II) have stepped up as the team's setters; Matt Gittens (I), Cornelius Taazabuing (I) and Sean Rabe (III) have blocked off all middle openings; Philip Chan (II), Jim Luo (I) and James McElligott (II) play as the outside attackers. For defense, Captain Eric Chan (I) leads as the weak side hitter. Finally, Alan Mui (III) and Huan Ngo (I) complete the back row.

From the outsider's view, the guys are fast and always on their toes. Their movements are so swift and light that it is almost graceful. The team works well with each other. The only "down" is the few small collisions when aggressive players bump into each other during reception. Captain Chan believes all will be fine by

game time: "The veterans are doing well, and the new people learn quickly. We're going to be good this year. I know it."

The team practices daily from 3:30 p.m. to around 6 p.m. Their agenda includes a number of lengthy exercises that promote and test the boys' speed, endurance and skills. The ultimate test, however, is teamwork, which is why the last hour of every practice is devoted to

playing status?

According to Coach Cuong Tran, the boys are good to go. "We have good middles [blockers]. With good passing from the back, we'll do well." At the moment, the front-row players are working to improve their speed and hitting, which will make for a stronger offense, while the back row works to maintain solid receiving and passing.



Varsity Volleyball Team Listen to Their Coach

scrimmaging: the team is divided and pitted against each other like in a game.

The off-season training and long after school practices are admirable aspects of the group, but is it be enough? Coach Huy Pham has two objectives: to defend the championship and to see that the team gets further in this year's state playoffs. When the question of a definite division title was posed, Coach Pham replied, "We have the potential. It's going to be a lot of hard work, but we'll do what we have to do." It's nice to hear some reassurance, but how is the team's

The biggest threats to the boys' volleyball team this year are rivals Lincoln-Sudbury and Newton South. The circumstances do not favor the Wolfpack. These two teams did not lose as many graduating players as Latin did so the opponents already have a season's experience under their belt.

Will "2005" be added to the boys' Eastern Alliance Championship banner in the gym or will the lone "2004" remain until the next year? We will have to see if the boys can live up to the expectations.

SPORTS

NCAA Tourney Provides True Madness

By Adam Fleischer, II
Contributing Writer

The three-and-a-half week span from the middle of March to the beginning of April proved to be heaven for a men's college basketball fan. What possibly could have triggered such exuberance? The answer lies in a combination of double overtime thrillers, quadruple-headers on TV, nail-biting finishes and buzzer-beaters, just to name a few of the occurrences.

The excitement began, fittingly, on March 17, the day which the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament got underway. While Boston College, a four seed in the Chicago region, was able to cruise easily past their opponent UPenn, the same could not be said for West Virginia, the Big East counterpart to whom they fell victim. The Mountaineers were involved in a game-long back and forth struggle with Creighton, but were eventually able to rise to victory, 63-61, as Tyrone Sally was able to take the ball down court for an easy dunk following his block with 2.9 seconds remaining. West Virginia was able to continue its tournament run for two more wins, ending the season of Final Four hopeful Wake Forest in a classic game that had to be decided in double overtime. It then defeated Texas Tech before losing to Louisville in the Elite Eight. Boston College, however, did not see such success, as its dream season was spoiled thanks to a second-round loss to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The second day of the first round witnessed two major upsets. Kansas, at one time the number one team in the country, had its Final Four aspirations thwarted when it was knocked off by

Bucknell, 64-63. Syracuse experienced a similar fate, suffering a 60-57 loss in overtime to a hardworking Taylor Koppenwrath and the Vermont Catamounts. Although neither Bucknell nor Vermont were able to advance past the second round, their effects on the tournament were substantial, as they knocked off two national championship contenders.

The next round seemed to be a continuation of the first; many favored teams advanced, while a handful of others did not. In addition to BC and Wake Forest going down, Gonzaga, Florida, Georgia Tech, UConn and Oklahoma, all sporting a five seed or higher, were not among the teams to advance to the third round, also known as the Sweet Sixteen. The four number one seeds did not struggle, though. Illinois, Washington, North Carolina and Duke all surged on one step closer to the Final Four.

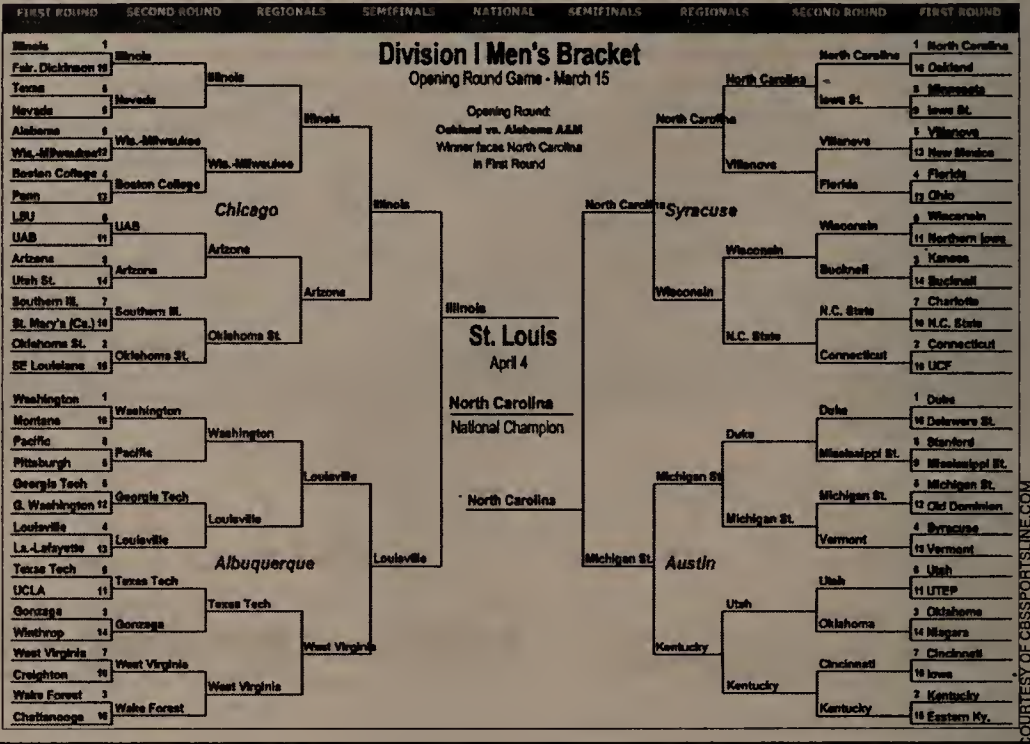
Great games continued in the Sweet Sixteen as two of those number one seeded teams were unable to move on. Duke was toppled by Michigan State and Washington was outdone by Louisville, clear indications of the hot streaks the victors were experiencing. Looking to do more damage, the Arizona Wildcats defeated Oklahoma State 79-78. With 2.8 seconds remaining, Salim Stoudamire's jump shot secured a victory. Oklahoma State's loss left Kentucky as the only number two seed lingering in the tournament.

After the competition of the first three rounds, it seemed that the NCAA Tournament had had just about as many close games as possible; that was, however, until the Elite Eight, arguably the most exciting round ever. Three of the four games extended into overtime as the last eight teams fought for spots in the Final Four. Rallying back from a 20-

point deficit, Louisville advanced past West Virginia, 93-85 in overtime, ending the Mountaineers' Cinderella run. On the same night, Illinois fought back to defeat Arizona in overtime, 90-89, despite being down by 14 with four minutes to go. With two spots in the Final Four solidified, the following day proved to be just as exciting. North Carolina was able to will its way past Wisconsin, who put up an outstanding effort despite ultimately suffering an 88-82 loss. The round's best game was also its last. In the nightcap, Michigan State edged Kentucky 94-88 in double overtime, in spite of Kentucky's Patrick Sparks's incredible three-point shot to send the game to overtime. All of the Final Four teams exhibited talent and experience; the tournament's culminating games were sure to be fantastic.

Although the semi-final match-ups were both decided by double digits, Il-

linois and North Carolina did not have much time to enjoy their victories. The national championship was to be played on April 4, 2005, two nights after the semi-finals. The pairing was one that basketball fans and experts had been awaiting and predicting all season long, pitting the two most talented teams against one another. Behind the superb play of Sean May, later named Most Outstanding Player, North Carolina was able to spend most of the game with a slight cushion over Illinois. The lead dwindled in the waning minutes, as with 1:33 left in the game, the Illini had pulled even at 70-70. But as fate would have it, they were not able to succeed further, and North Carolina, with the help of three Raymond Felton free throws down the stretch, came out on top as the national champions of college basketball. It was a fitting end to an exciting game and great tournament.



C's Seek Consistency

Champion Makeover

By Jake Graham-Felsen, III
Contributing Writer

A classic slide was bound to happen considering the recent past of our unsuccessful and disappointing Celtics. Watching the team, revamped with the new acquisition of Antoine Walker, win 11 of 12 games, it seemed like a typical Celtics losing streak would never occur. They were uncharacteristically playing defense, hitting threes, showing intensity off the bench and winning games on the road. Unfortunately, this all had to come to an abrupt stop as the Celtics began to slide into their old ways. Since that 12-game run and the building of a solid lead in the Atlantic over the 76ers, they have lost five out of six games, including a terrible 25-point loss to the cellar dweller Knicks.

There are many reasons for this recent slide of the Antoine-added Celtics of new. Let's just list a few of the reasons why these Celts have been faltering:

Doc Rivers has talked of shortening his bench, and has taken steps to that end, when this bench is one of the reasons why the Celtics have had this short-lived success. The play of Ricky Davis has propelled the team to a new level. But Doc Rivers is putting up a roadblock to this success, an obstacle that can hinder Al Jefferson's potential for the team. Jefferson is not even averaging 10 minutes anymore, which is a major detriment to his improvement and the Celtics' overall success.

A second reason is the Celtics' diminished quality of play. In the early

games of that 11-win run there were players running off the bench at timeouts and players helping each other off the floor. Now the Celtics look flat and lackadaisical and have lost that edge.

Thirdly—and it's hard to blame him for this—there is the decreased production of Antoine Walker, who initially sparked off this run. Antoine over the 11-win run was producing great numbers: he easily averaged 20 a game with 10 boards, while thankfully not relying on his three-point shot. Since then, he's dropped off and averaged below 20 points, and has started to depend on that shot. Though it's not only Antoine who has dropped off on the stat sheet: Delonte West, Marcus Banks, and the always-disappointing Mark Blount have, too.

Another reason for the Celtics' losing streak is their decrease of team assists. In the 11-win run the Celtics were easily tipping 20 assists on the stat sheet. Since then that number has dropped off to the low teens.

Inconsistency was always a telling feature of the Antoine-less Celtics, but for awhile their acquisition of him seemed to have rid the team of that characteristic. Not so lately. The bright side of that is that by the time this article is printed, they could be once again flippin' it to higher scores. Or they could continue this streak and lose even more ground to the 76ers. Its inconsistency is the main feature—and fault—of this team. And with a bit of luck, it may push them to success in the playoffs.

By Jospeh Bravoco, II
Contributing Writer

The triumphant victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX marked the end to yet another successful Patriots season. Now, after humbly proving themselves to be the champions of the football world, the Pats begin to tackle another Herculean task: the menace of free agency and the salary cap. As frequently versed by Vice President of Player Personnel Scott Pioli and Coach Bill Belichick, the main priority of the Patriots this off-season is making absolutely sure that they are sufficiently under the salary cap while sustaining a balance of talents. Steadfast to this unique philosophy, the Patriots quickly named Adam Vinatieri, the unflappable field-goal kicker, to be their franchise player, locking him in to a three-year deal. Other noteworthy re-signings include Steven Neal (LG), Patrick Pass (FB), Don Davis (OLB) and veteran Tom Ashworth (LT). Such key re-signings indicate the state of prioritizing this franchise is undergoing, keeping those players who can contribute to the club while at the same time tossing those players that are either too pricey or do not fit into the rigid guidelines of Belichick's game plan.

However, the Patriots should certainly be applauded for their realistic stinginess with overpriced and over-rated players. Some choices that Pioli and Belichick have made have caused sheer confusion amongst a highly optimistic Patriot bandwagon. With the inevitable

loss of perennial Pro Bowler Ty Law, many fans had anticipated this team to restructure itself around another big-time player, either through a free-agency signing or some finagling in the trading business. The Patriots, taking a different route from popular opinion, decided to continue to lighten the load of "overpriced" players, thus relieving some cap anxiety.

Players such as Joe Andruzzi (LG), David Patten (WR) and Roman Phifer (OLB), the heart and soul of this Patriot team, were sent packing, and to no one's surprise, were snatched up by three teams eager for such acquisitions. Such controversial moves vexed the Patriot community and put into question the motives behind Belichick's thinking.

Although we may be at odds with Belichick's releasing of key players for the benefit of the cap, there is not one coach in this league who can win three Super Bowls while maintaining the balance. Belichick has done the same routine year after year, putting players on the field who deserve their playing time and want to win. True, the Patriots will be without Troy Brown, John Andruzzi and a whole group of notable players synonymous with this team. They will also have to dig deep into free agency and rely on their Combine to acquire rising collegiate prospects. Yet Patriot fans inherently trust Belichick, even in the most dubious of situations. He will put a team on the field in early September that will once again rise to the challenge and find itself back in the Super Bowl spotlight, fighting for a fourth championship in five years.

SPORTS

Latin Baseball To Take Their Cut At '05

BASEBALL

Continued from page 17

Hopefully this problem will be resolved by another year of play with aluminum bats. The team was lacking defense as well, committing an unacceptable 50 errors in the field.

Last year, however, was not a total disappointment. While their defense was erratic at times and their offense often struggled, Latin's pitching staff was impressive. Sean Martin (I), Andrew Flink (I) and Matt Stone (II) all played good seasons on the mound. But because of

poor run support, Martin was the only pitcher to win more than three games. Martin performed just as well at the plate; he batted .333 to lead the team in that category, leaving no question as to why he was a DCL All-Star.

Not having met their goals last season, the Wolfpack are ready to play. Along with several departing seniors, the team will have to deal with the loss of a key component to last year's team: their coach. Coach David Coleman retired at the end of the season. He is being replaced by Coach Charles "Curly" Peterson, who will inherit a team that is definitely ca-

pable of competing in the DCL, as shown by last year's second place finish. They may even manage to play deep into the postseason.

The season is already going well for the Wolfpack, having already played their first game against Mansfield. After falling behind early on, Pat Poulin (II) hit a home run to cut the deficit, but the 'Pack still trailed 6-5 and were down to their final three outs. The Latin bats came alive quickly. Eric Olson (I) led off the inning with a solo home run and Rory Foley (II) followed him with a triple. The next batter was Stone. He stepped in and singled

home Foley for the winning run, ending the game in a 7-6 Wolfpack victory.

This season is expected to be a good one for Boston Latin baseball. By all accounts, the team has looked good in practice and they were impressive in their season debut. It would also seem as if they solved their hitting problem, since the offense exploded for seven runs in the opener. The defense, however, may still need work; the team committed five errors in the victory, yet it could be attributed to first game jitters. Nevertheless, high hopes remain for this year's team which is full of potential.

Sticky Issues for Major League Baseball

BY THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Major League Baseball was seemingly on the way to its former glory after an unfortunate labor strike that caused the cancellation of the 1994 World Series. Cal Ripken, Jr. had quickly put life back into baseball, breaking Lou Gehrig's record after playing in 2,131 straight games. Then in 1998, the baseball world went on a joy ride as Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa broke windshields all over the country in their race to beat Roger Maris's record of 61 homeruns in a season. Finally, McGwire eclipsed the magical number that had stood for 31 years, and left a record of 70 while Sosa finished with 66. Sosa continued the magic, becoming the first player to hit 60 or more homeruns in three seasons. This newfound excitement peaked when the Red Sox finally won the world series in 2004 for the first time in 86 years. Unfortunately, the spirit fizzled out before the start of the 2005 season.

For several years, the suspicion of steroids use in Major League baseball has grown, as has scrutiny of MLB's liberal testing policy. Under it, players were able to freely use steroids, while the minor leaguers as well as other major pro-sports and Olympic athletes were heavily tested. However, growing suspicion of abuse has forced the owners to implement a new steroid policy that calls for random testing of players with higher penalties and demands public announcement of any incriminating findings.

Unfortunately for Major League Baseball, ex-player Jose Canseco published a tell-all book entitled "Juiced," which detailed steroid abuse in baseball during his career, shortly before the 2005 season began. In it, he specifically mentions retired and present baseball players whom he heard of or with whom he supposedly shot steroids. Among these are the corner-stone players such as McGwire, Jason Giambi and even the aging Rafael Palmeiro. Although Jose Canseco has never been the most credible source of information in past years, his book cannot be overlooked. For better or worse, he is one of the only players to confess his steroid use. Through his efforts of obtaining and using the illegal

substances, he encountered other users. And at the moment, he is the only source speaking up.

To add to Major League Baseball's woes, Congress called a hearing to discuss steroid abuse in the MLB and its effects on the game and the youth of America. To conduct the hearings, Congress subpoenaed Jose Canseco, Jason Giambi, Mark McGwire, Curt Schilling, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro and Frank Thomas to the Capitol. With Frank Thomas attend-

tion on national television, instead, McGwire focused on his pledge to inform youth about steroid abuse. In this way, he tainted his playing career, possibly sabotaging his chances of being admitted into the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY.

McGwire is not the only one who has been criticized in the witch hunt of juiced-up players. Jason Giambi of the New York Yankees publicly apologized at a press conference several weeks ago, although he never clarified what the apology was

strict as some hoped, but it has produced some results as the 2005 season has started. Alex Sanchez of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays became the first player to test positive under the new policy on April 1st. He was stamped with a 10-day suspension and will lose \$32,787 of his \$600,000 salary. Besides the one accused major leaguer, 38 minor leaguers were suspended the next day for violation of the minor league steroid use policy.

Progress is being made, but un-



CONSECO'S TELL-ALL BOOK "JUICED"



BONDS SPEAKS TO MEDIA ABOUT HIS STEROID HISTORY

ing via satellite, all current and former players issued statements and answered under oath the questions posed by members of Congress. These questions sought the players' perspective of steroid use. All of the players, except Jose Canseco, confirmed that they had never witnessed anyone taking steroids, although they had heard talk of it. Questions concerning how to inform America youth about the danger of steroids arose after a father told how his son's steroid addiction tragically led him to commit suicide.

The story that gained the most attention at the hearing was that of McGwire. The same slugger who brought viewers back to baseball used the Fifth Amendment to avoid answering specific questions about his past. Dodging question after ques-

for. Barry Bonds, the current single season homerun record holder at 73, recently held a conference during which he stated that his current knee injury will keep him out of action for at least half of the season or longer. Whether these injuries or his potential retirement this year are the results of steroid abuse in the past, however, is yet to be determined. Along with Giambi, however, he testified in investigations of a Bay Area company that produces steroids called BALCO. In the same conference announcing the consequences of his injury, Bonds blamed the accusations of media and others for causing him and his family pain and suffering.

The new steroid policy is not as

fortunately at a very slow pace. Major League Baseball will have to continue to make strides in its policy against steroids, bringing it closer to the extremely strict Olympic testing policy. One violator is too many for America's struggling national pastime. As Congressional committee chairman Tom Davis, R-Va said, "There is a cloud over the game."

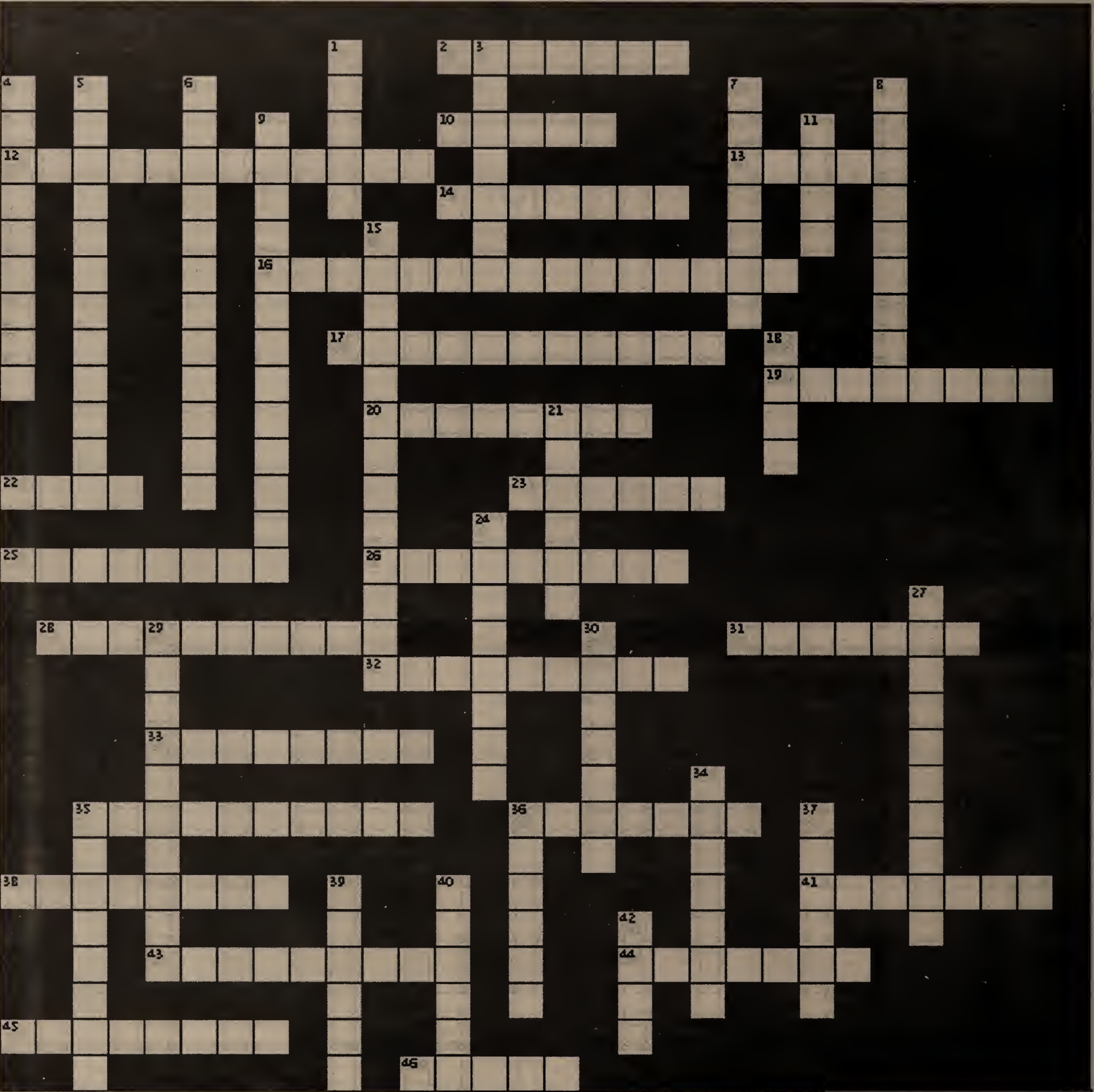


CONSECO ADMITS TO STEROID USE IN BASEBALL



MCGWIRE SPEAKS AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

The Return of the Argo Crossword Puzzle



- Across**

 - 2. Argo's favorite font
 - 10. Food the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle love the most
 - 12. Charles's new wife
 - 13. The world's fastest growing economy
 - 14. "_____ Suck"
 - 16. Fifth mode of the harmonic minor scale in music
 - 17. Nancy Callahan of Sin City
 - 19. Giant sea snail with an edible interior
 - 20. The road without a limit
 - 22. Maker of the PSP
 - 23. Leave It to _____
 - 25. Manager of the Red Sox
 - 26. The new pink
 - 28. The _____'s Guide to the Galaxy
- Down**

 - 1. Maker of the iPod
 - 3. Folding paper
 - 4. Exploding star
 - 5. The right and power to interpret and apply the law
 - 6. Indiana Jones
- 7. Real Madrid's hottest player
 - 8. Where you can find Antigua
 - 9. Winner of the 2005 Men's College Basketball Tournament
 - 11. Full of calcium for strong bones
 - 15. Owner of Mercedes-Benz
 - 18. Pedro's new team
 - 21. AP Environmentalist and Biologist
 - 24. January 20 to February 18
 - 27. The new Red Sox movie
 - 29. Phantom Planet's favorite state
 - 30. Established in 1636
 - 34. A frozen drink
 - 35. Cake for all ice ages
 - 36. What the Europeans like to dance to
 - 37. Cheesy chips
 - 39. The comeback Celtic
 - 40. Island in the Sun
 - 42. China's golden dynasty

Answers
will be
printed in
the next
issue of the
Argo.

Editor's Note

It is my particular pleasure to bring to you this seventh and final edition of the 2004-2005 *Argo*, our official graduation issue. Since the graduation issue is both one of the most anticipated of the year due to its unique Senior Section and has the greatest potential to contain objectionable content, it is important to

clarify this year's *Argo* policy. Due to an emergency print job, the Senior Section is shorter than usual and necessarily excludes the senior spotlight section; *Argo* staff farewells have also been shortened to accomodate. We sincerely regret being forced to take such measures. A note concerning potentially questionable content: the *Argo* has made

every effort to ensure that overtly mean-spirited humor has been eliminated. We encourage the school community, and particularly faculty, to treat the Senior Section in the spirit in which it is intended: light-hearted end-of-year fun. No offense is intended. Enjoy your copy of the *Argo*!

—Isaac Meister

To you, Isaac:

No one worked harder.
We watched in awe.
Bravo!
Go forth, buoyed by our
love and blessings.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Jake, Katerina
& Michael,
...And the GPs!

Congratulations, Melissa
We are all so proud of you.

Love, your crazy family Catherine,
J-Gill, K-Gill, Lauren, Lee Jay,
Grandpie, Joan, and the rest of
your family.

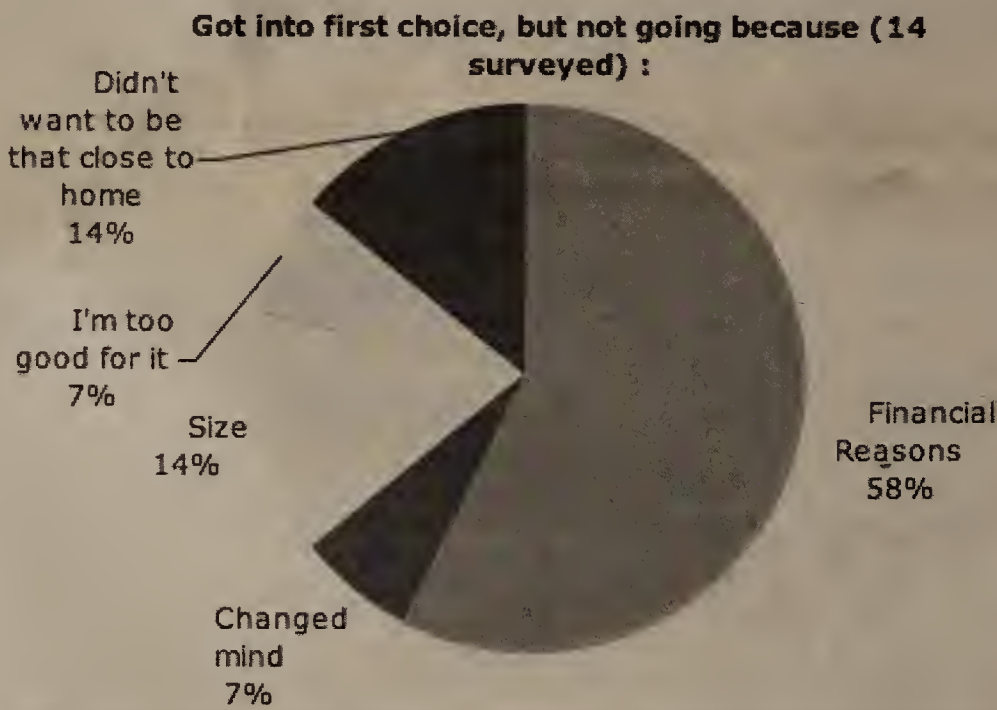
As We Walk On, Some of Us Stumble

By JULIA ARNOUS, III & REBECCA BILODEAU, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE & STAFF WRITER

When caps fly at the Boston Latin School graduation on June 12, both high school and the long college admissions process will be left behind. After bidding farewell to all their BLS experiences, the graduating seniors will traipse off next year to college and find new experiences in an entirely new place. Though life will be different wherever the graduates plan to attend, the setting may not be ideal; about half of the graduating class were not admitted to their first choice schools.

Boston Latin School is the oldest public school in the nation and has a history of excellence. It has impeccable MCAS scores, impressive SAT scores, the best Latin AP scores in the world and a student body with an amazing talent for bubbling in circles. Boston Latin School "seeks to ground its students in a contemporary classical education as preparation for successful college studies," but even so, 50 percent of surveyed Boston Latin School seniors reported that they had not in fact been accepted to their first-choice schools.

Most of the first-choice schools that students were not accepted to might be labeled as "reach schools." The BLS College Handbook advises students to make sure



that they have schools they can count on farther down on their lists. Yet BLS teachers and administrators encourage students to engage in a little bit of wishful thinking as well. Though this indubitably accounts for at least some pleasant surprises, it may also explain the presence of many disappointingly thin envelopes in students' mailboxes.

Like parents, teachers and administrators, students realized how important

college admissions are, and some willingly applied to each and every school to which they had the slightest chance of being accepted. For those who had back-up plans and other options, not getting into their number-one schools was slightly less tragic, especially if they did not rely on any one acceptance. One student reported that, though not accepted to her first choice

FIRST CHOICE
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2004-2005 Academic Year

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The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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Achievement Award

2004 New England
Scholastic Press
Association Highest
Achievement Award

Ms. Xu: A Tribute

BY MARGARET LAM, II &
SANDRA LEE, II
LAYOUT EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On May 18, 2005, Ms. Janet Xu, a beloved Chinese teacher at Boston Latin School, passed away after struggling with cancer. Ms. Xu was a loving wife, admirable mother, dependable friend and a great teacher. She was loved dearly by Boston Latin faculty, staff and students for her warm smile, gentle voice and peaceful nature. A teacher of unlimited patience and tolerance, Ms. Xu encouraged all her students to work to the best of their abilities without unnecessary pressure. She made learning Chinese fun and broadened her students' scopes by teaching them how to sing Chinese songs and watching the latest Zhang Yimou movies.

Ms. Xu was a familiar face to those on the second floor. Students respected her and teachers adored her. In return, she welcomed them with her kind personality, and made school more enjoyable. When Ms. Xu passed away, grief descended upon all the members of the Boston Latin family.

In fact, many students were not informed of Ms. Xu's illness until after her death and so held on to the hope that she would return and the second floor might once again be brightened by her presence. But Ms. Xu insisted that her students be unaware of her condition since she did not want anyone to worry or grieve over her misfortune. That was Ms. Xu's nature: always giving and never receiving. The news of her death overwhelmed students with sadness. Memories of having class with Ms. Xu and spending time with her flooded their minds as tears uncontrollably streaked



MS. XU

down their faces. Reflecting the mindset of many of Ms. Xu's students, Yening Qin (II) felt that "it shouldn't have happened to Ms. Xu; anyone but her." Before Ms. Xu's death, her greatest concern was her eight-year-old daughter's education. To support her daughter's academic future and honor Ms. Xu's memory, friends of Ms. Xu have set up the Kristina Lee Educational Fund. Any donations to this cause will be greatly appreciated. Students will be visiting homerooms in the morning and donations can also be dropped off in the Main Office.

At her wake on May 22, over 50 of Ms. Xu's past students and co-workers were present to pay their respects and extend their condolences to her family. Walking into the funeral home, a solemn tone filled the place while students and teachers waited to meet Ms. Xu's family. Though the family was mourning, they remained strong and kept their composure. Those who attended made eye contact,

which served as a moral and emotional support for the family. Though everyone misses Ms. Xu, "We should all be happy for her since she's in a better place," says Flora Ng, a member of Class II. "Ms. Xu will forever be in our hearts."

A memorial service was held after school on June 1 in memory of the members of the Boston Latin community who passed away this year. Shawna Sinnott (II) and Peter Abichaker (I), who both studied Chinese under Ms. Xu, delivered very moving speeches about her. As Leo Law (II) said about the memorial, "Since there were so many people who passed away this year, I thought it was pretty good to have people gather and share their feelings."

that he sought to evoke feelings of unease and the sensation of being trapped, directly reflecting the situation of the Jews during the Holocaust. But he does not want to overly sanctify the memorial; rather, he hopes that "people will use it for short cuts, not as a holy place."

Located in the heart of Berlin, the Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe is a stone's throw away from the Brandenburg Gate and the apartment complex under which Hitler's bunker lies. The top of the German Parliament building, the Reichstag, can be seen from the memorial, serving as a reminder of the key role Berlin played in the extermination of Eastern European Jews.

Many have criticized Berlin for erecting a monument in remembrance of the Holocaust's victims decades too late. Eisenman feels that "one hundred years from now, people will not say 'this [memorial] came too late'... It is still early." People have also criticized the memorial because it does not acknowledge the thousands of non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Others feel religious symbols such as the Star of David should have more prominent roles in the memorial's

Stephanie Lam Remembered

BY ELAINE LEE, III & JOHN MIN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

As members of the Boston Latin School community already know, this may very well be one of the most distressing years because of the woeful losses of so many faculty members and of cherished sophomore Stephanie Lam. As our own head master has pointed out, "You just wouldn't expect some- one... to be in school one day, and gone the next." Such was the case with Stephanie. On April 9, she was killed in a tragic accident as she was crossing the street in



STEPHANIE LAM

Chinatown, leaving behind grieving family members, and shocked friends and classmates. Although many news articles have been written about Stephanie, the amount of inaccurate information contained in them has disappointed many who knew her. We would like to rectify these mistakes and describe in our own words who Stephanie was.

Stephanie was kind, altruistic to the sugar-deprived and constant in her tasks. Despite being overshadowed by others because of her height, it was hard not to notice her, with her high-pitched voice and the brown sweater she always wore. She loved mangoes, junk food, shopping (a newfound hobby), chocolate (especially Lindt truffles), junk food, swimming and her dog, Sally. She had been on the BLS Varsity swim team since her sixie year. Kristine Xue (III), who joined the BLS Varsity swim team as a freshman, remembers Stephanie as "really fast even though she said she was really slow. One second you'd see her on your side of the pool, you'd blink and the next moment she's halfway to the other side, but she was always cool enough to hang out with the slower people and laugh at how mad Coach was when he found out we skipped half the practice. On the bus, she'd always share her fruity hard candy, tsk-ing and crooning, 'You poor child. Sugar is so good.'... When we did sleds [swimming exercises], she'd curse under her breath about how she hated them."

When she had spare time, Stephanie usually spent it on one of her main hob-

bies—making layouts—most of which were featured in the weekly slips from the Anime Culture Club, of which she was secretary. But the impact anime had on her life went far beyond the mere two hours spent at each club meeting. Her favorite types of manga were *shojo*, which is girls' manga (for lack of a better term) and *akushon* (action). From these categories, she preferred the works of CLAMP, Kaori Yuki, Yu Watase, Satomi Ikezawa,

Yoko Matsu-shita and Park Sang Sung. As for anime, the animated format of manga, she liked eye-candy, comedy and action/drama, such as the animes DN Angel, Yakkitate Japan, Full Metal Alchemist,

Witch Hunter Robin, Azumanga Daioh and Gundam Seed.

But there was more to Stephanie than just anime. Contrary to one newspaper's report, she despised milk, often eating her cereal dry in the mornings. Stephanie was studious in the subjects she liked, many times neglecting the work that needed to be done in the subjects she scorned, such as math. She had a wry sense of humor and a penchant for cynical thoughts, but her originality, generosity and fidelity to her comrades-in-arms against the BLS onslaught of schoolwork was what made her a worthy and beloved friend.

Stephanie often hung out after school with her friends, who were as close to her as family. Like many newcomers to Boston Latin School, Stephanie was very much alone as a sixie, even disliked by some due to her many unique qualities. Nevertheless, she was later able to form many strong friendships with her peers, and had quite a large "family" when she passed away. Last year, Stephanie sent out 48 carnations to all of her friends.

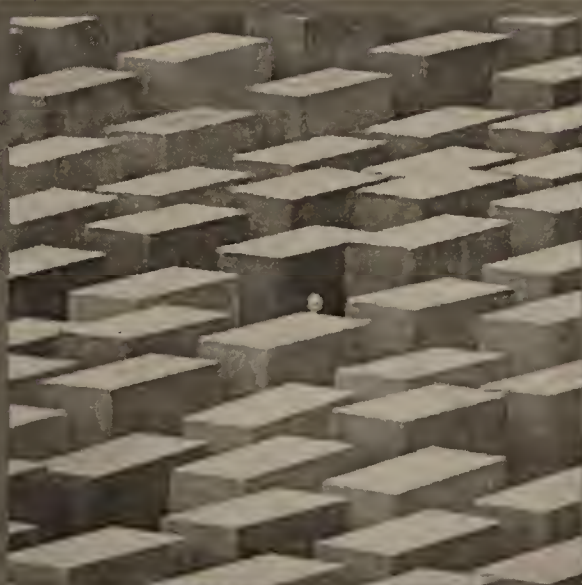
We would like to extend our sympathies to all those who lost someone in this especially tragic year. We hope that a year such as this one shall never again befall the BLS community. It is always hard to lose a loved one, especially under the circumstances that many of her friends lost Stephanie. It is the memory of Stephanie that they will hold most dear, and we hope that we have been able to touch a few droplets in that ocean of memories.

Berlin Holocaust Memorial Opens

BY NATALIE CUCCHIARA, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The year 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the end of the Nazi regime. In remembrance of this event, the Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe was erected in Berlin, Germany this spring, to show that Germany "faces up to its history," according to parliamentary president Wolfgang Thierse.

The city of Berlin, the headquarters of the Nazi Party during the Third Reich, unveiled this memorial on May 10 as the first memorial in the city to recognize the memory of the Jews. The memorial consists of 2,700 stone blocks spread across over 200,000 square feet of land on the border between East and West Berlin. The blocks, each a different shape and size, are designed over an uneven plane. Cobblestone walkways separating the blocks allow visitors to walk through the virtual labyrinth. At a recent dinner workshop recognizing the opening of the memorial the architect, Peter Eisenman, further explained the project. He described the design of the dense grid of slabs, stating



THE BERLIN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

design, since they represent specific religious groups. As a compromise, Eisenman added an information center where visitors can learn about the Nazi campaign against the Jews. More controversy followed the discovery that the manufacturer

of the anti-graffiti solution sprayed on the stones also made the poison gas used in Nazi death camps. Even the design of the memorial has been denounced by people who feel its abstract qualities do not reflect its serious subject.

During April vacation, 45 Facing History and Ourselves students visited the city of Berlin and saw the monument while it was under construction. At first glance, it appeared to be a vast open area filled with concrete slabs, but the memorial has greater depth in its potential to stir emotions in the visitor. This memorial will serve as a reminder to future generations of the horrors of World War II, of the Holocaust and of genocide. Lea Rosh, the German journalist who in 1988 first suggested the memorial's creation, says that "it will be a reminder for the country of the aggressors."

Security Lapses Cause Close Calls

BY LINDA ZHENG, III
STAFF WRITER

Recent security lapses of varying magnitudes concerning President George Bush and the capital are casting doubt on the nation's protective methods. In the past month, a live hand grenade was found only 100 feet away from Bush in the crowd in Tbilisi, a city in the former Soviet province of Georgia, and two airplanes flew into the restricted airspace over Washington D.C., provoking serious alarm.

The grenade that appeared at a rally that Bush and Georgian president Mikhail Saakashvili attended in Freedom Square on May 10 was previously labeled as no real threat, but is now acknowledged as a faulty explosive. Bryan Paarmann of the FBI, the American Embassy's legal representative, released in a statement that the act was potentially deadly, and was only deterred by a malfunction. This negates earlier reports by Georgian officials who stated that the grenade was not thrown, but "found." Gela Bezhushvili, secretary

of Georgia's National Security Council added, "The goal is clear—to frighten or to scare people and to attract the attention of the mass media." They further claimed that even if the bomb had been thrown and exploded, it would have been unable to harm the presidents due to the volume of the crowd and the distance to the stage.

Bush was protected by sheets of bulletproof glass while onstage in Tbilisi, but still remained potentially vulnerable as there were open areas between him and the crowd. While Georgian officials and the Secret Service were supposed to subject spectators to metal detector inspections, thousands out of the massive throng of approximately 150,000 got through on visual checks only. Scott McClellan, the White House Spokesman, stated that after receiving details about the findings of the investigation, Bush continued to express his full trust in the Secret Service. No suspects or motives have been mentioned, and it is unclear whether the target was Bush or Saakashvili, whose new policies have been met



with hostility in Georgia.

On May 11, only one day after the Tbilisi incident, panic seized Washington D.C. when a single-engine *Cessna 150* was flown within three miles of the White House. Pilot Hayden L. Sheaffer was aboard the plane, with 36-year-old pilot Troy Martin, who had logged only 30 hours of airtime, actually flying. Their intrusion prompted *Black Hawks* employed by Customs and Border Protection to fire warning flares at the plane. The two men were initially arrested and questioned, but released shortly afterwards when it was determined that the infringement was accidental and harmless. Nonetheless, Sheaffer's license was revoked by the Federal Aviation Administration, who deemed him an "unacceptable risk to safety" for not meeting the requirements necessary for carrying a passenger.

Bush was on a bicycle trip in suburban Maryland at the time, and was not informed about the situation by the Secret Service until later on. But more than 30,000 people, including Vice President Dick Cheney, First Lady Laura Bush and former First Lady Nancy Reagan, were

told to evacuate from the White House, the Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol and other federal buildings by Secret Service men yelling, "This is not a joke." The entire evacuation took five to six minutes, which Richard Falkenrath, former Deputy Homeland Security Adviser to the president, noted as "not good enough in a real threat situation." Factors contributing to the delayed reaction included the failure of an emergency notification income system and the crowds of tourists in the area. Several congressional members complained of having to evacuate along with visitors in an already confusing situation. An intercom system installed in the White House offices of the news media after the September 11 attacks is currently under inspection. Also, enunciators (the speakers set up in the vicinity to provide warnings during emergency situations) did not perform their duties until shortly afterwards.

The flight, Falkenrath said, was the most severe breach of security into the restricted airspace of around 5,200 square kilometers over Washington since the 9/11 attacks. Hundreds of planes, however,



BUSH AT SPEECH IN GEORGIA

Hybrids Cost More Green, But Save More Too

BY MARY HONG, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

So you have aspirations for the hottest new model on the block. Even with ICE on the inside, the attraction between you is electric—literally. On top of that, it is fresher than ever and easier at the pump—which is more than can be said of the gluttonous, gas-guzzling monster you keep locked in your garage. First-born of the new vehicular revolution in the making, the hybrid heralds the softening of relations between industry and environmentalists, a union made possible by some of the coolest technologies around.

The "hybrid" in the term "hybrid car" refers to its use of two or more types of energy, the most common of which is currently a combination of electricity and gasoline. There are two different groups: "mild hybrids" are largely gasoline-dependent, while "full hybrids," are more technologically aggressive. Besides having an independently operating gas engine and electric motor, the full hybrid can simultaneously expend energy and recharge its battery. An increase in demand for cars with greater per gallon mileage in recent years, especially in response to monstrously high gas prices, has spurred a fusion of advanced engineering and innovative design.

When a hybrid starts, the electric generator first warms up the internal combustion engine (ICE), the source of gasoline power. This, however, shuts off soon after ignition, as well as during idling mode when the car is at a dead stop, turning on only to boost acceleration beyond a certain speed. At cruise speeds or speeds below 15 mph, full hybrids subsist completely on electricity. Meanwhile, computer technology smartly monitors acceleration and speed to determine the necessary amounts of electric and



DODGE RAM PICKUP GETS 9 MPG

ICE output. Perhaps one of the most interesting things about the hybrid is its "regenerative braking," a concept that allows the car to use braking friction, otherwise wasted as heat, to drive an electric generator. By using the generator as the brake, energy from the torque (turning force) of the slowing wheels is converted to electricity via magnetic interaction and channeled back into the battery without



HONDA INSIGHT GETS 60 MPG

either plugs or starters. This electricity, moreover, produces more torque at low speeds, a failing in conventional cars. In turn, this allows the engine to be downsized, lightening the entire vehicle. Hybrids are also designed with lighter but stronger materials, less frictional components and a more aerodynamically efficient form that reduces drag.

Since the grand unveiling of the Honda Insight, the first marketed hybrid, six years ago, car-manufacturing giants such as Honda, Toyota, General Motors and Ford have been fiercely competing for dominance in the newly opened market.

The newest models are larger, lighter, and more energy- and space-efficient. They are catching up to conventional cars in speed even as gasoline dependency is decreased, gradually overcoming problems that plagued the earliest models. The result is a car with miles per gallon (mpg) ratings by the Environmental Protection Agency up to 61 mpg in the city to 70 mpg on the highway. Honda Insight is leading the way, but the Toyota Prius and the Honda Civic follow close behind with optimums of 60 mpg and 51 mpg respectively. These are impressive improvements considering the normal mpg of gasoline-run cars varies from 30 to 40, with the Dodge Ram pickup's low of nine.

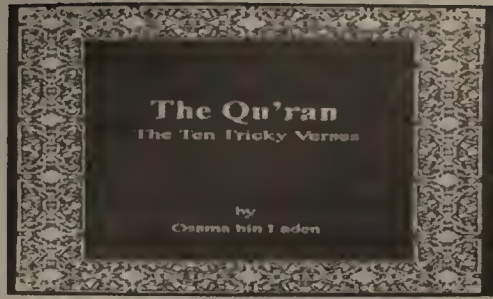
Apology Not Accepted

BY BARRY TOMASINI, III
STAFF WRITER

In the May 9 issue of *Newsweek*, it was reported that interrogators, in an attempt to “rattle suspects, flushed a Qur’an down a toilet.” This report became a major international news headline, and sparked several militantly anti-American riots worldwide. At least 16 people were killed and over a hundred were injured in relation to these riots. Many nations, Pakistan among them, have issued statements demanding that the U.S. formally apologize to the Muslims of the world for any mistreatment of their holiest text.

Despite widespread allegations of disrespectful conduct, in the May 23 issue, *Newsweek* editor Mark Whitaker said, “Based on what we know now, we are retracting our original story that an internal military investigation had uncovered Qur’an abuse at Guantanamo Bay.” The Pentagon probed these new claims, and found no instances of abuse of the Qur’an at “Gitmo,” the Cuban naval base/prison’s nickname.

Many blame *Newsweek* for the deaths and injuries that occurred on account of the anti-American sentiment and outcry. “This was a very serious mistake on the part of *Newsweek*, as they have sparked controversy so deep and incited anger so passionate. They have acutely damaged America’s reputation and, indirectly, killed people,” said an anonymous source. “People are dying. They are burning American flags. Our forces are in danger,” said Pentagon spokesman Larry DiRita, who blames *Newsweek*’s report for the violent riots that broke out in Afghanistan and other Muslim countries. “People are



THE QU'RAN

dead because of what this son-of-a-bitch said!” The prisoner at Guantanamo Bay who complained that an officer threw a Qur’an in the toilet has since recanted the story, senior Pentagon officials reported on May 26. One online blogger said, “*Newsweek* lied, people died,” which is a play on a popular anti-Bush slogan, “Bush lied, kids died.” Another stated, “People have died because of this act of irresponsibility by *Newsweek* and our nation’s reputation has been harmed considerably by this slander.”

Many members of the White House staff have commended *Newsweek*’s decision to retract the story, but believe that the magazine will need to take a greater initiative to mend the damage done. “It’s a good first step,” said Scott McClellan, White House press secretary. “We regret that we got any part of our story wrong, and extend our sympathies to victims of the violence and to the U.S. soldiers caught in its midst,” Whitaker said in the May 23 issue. No expression of regret or sympathy, however, has proven sufficient to dissipate the anger aroused by allegations of abuse and indictments of immorality. Anti-American sentiment, though certainly not sparked by recent events, has without a doubt been inflamed by them.

Filibuster Saved

BY JIEYU JIANG, III
STAFF WRITER

For the past few months, the judicial filibuster debate between the Democrats and Republicans in the Senate seemed to be on the verge of explosion. Filibustering is the use of extended debate to prevent a majority vote in the Senate, a method by which the Democrats have repeatedly stalled confirmation of President Bush’s judicial nominees. As long as the minority party keeps the debate going with 41 votes, the majority party has no other choice but to wait. Senate majority leader Bill Frist, however, accused the Democrats of abusing the filibuster in blocking 10 of Bush’s 218 first-term judicial nominees.

The Republicans, with 55 out of 100 seats in the Senate, were unable to obtain the 60 votes necessary to end the filibuster against President Bush’s nominees. Thus, Senator Frist attempted to push through legislation that would permanently ban the use of filibuster in the Senate under any circumstances, a motion some refer to as the “nuclear option” because of its potentially devastating outcome. Democrats in the Senate threatened to retaliate by slowing the Senate procedure to a crawl if such a change were made.

Despite efforts to end the filibuster, on Monday, May 24, 2005, a group of 14 bipartisan senators (seven Democrats and seven Republicans) met and later announced that they had reached a compromise. Under this agreement, Republicans will allow the minority party to continue to filibuster judicial nominees for the 2005-2006 congressional session, albeit only under “extraordinary circumstances.”

In return, the Democrats will allow three of President Bush’s five most controversial nominees, including Janice Rogers Brown, Priscilla Owen and William Pryor, to be potential judicial candidates for the Supreme Court. On Wednesday, just two days after the compromise, Texan Priscilla Owen was approved for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. For the past three years, she had been denied her nomination by the Senate, but was re-nominated by President Bush after his second term election. According to Democrats, Owen is a “right-winged extremist,” who would bend the laws according to her conservative viewpoints, including opposition against abortion.

Although this agreement has temporarily solved the filibuster issue, it received criticism from both parties. President Bush seemed to be one of the few who were genuinely satisfied with the concessions, cheerfully exclaiming, “It’s about time. I’m pleased that the Senate is moving forward on my judicial nominees, who were previously being blocked. These nominees have waited years for an up-or-down on the Senate floor, and now they’ll get one.” Others, however, are not so optimistic, stating that this is not a simple matter of allowing a certain nominee into the judicial system. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) remarked, “This agreement among these 14, to which 86 senators were not a party does not solve anything. What it does do is perhaps delay the inevitable.” As the ailing Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist may soon be stepping down, leaving a vacancy in the Supreme Court, the battle will continue.

SECURITY LAPSES

Continued from page 4

have entered this area since it was established in February 2003, usually by accidentally skirting the edge of the zone. On the evening of May 23, yet another plane, a private *Cessna* whose pilot had acquired permission to cross into the area but had lost radio contact due to lightning, caused another stir. The Senate majority leader, Bill Frist, called for a recess, and the plane was intercepted by military jets and escorted to a nearby landing field in Gaithersburg, MD.

The Department of Homeland Security is considering several measures to tighten the security procedures over the nation’s capital. The system of lasers currently installed is designed to warn pilots who have entered the restricted airspace, but is ineffective on planes flying in or above the clouds. Since clouds cover the skies of Washington for almost half the time, the costly red-green laser warning system requires reinforcements. “We know we can’t use the system 100 percent of the time, but remember, the system isn’t a stand-alone one,” defended 1st Lt. Lisa Citino, a spokeswoman for

the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). “It’s just one of the other systems we have in place.” This includes Customs and Border Protection pilots who, without adequate equipment to shoot down planes, can only shoot at the people in them. Fortunately, according to Chris Dancy, spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, most small planes fly below the clouds, and the lasers would still be of use. The laser system has diverted planes from the restricted area over 2,000 times in the past four years.

Some proposals currently under discussion include armed helicopters bearing “Follow me” signs to lead aircrafts out of the restricted area. This is designed to prevent the May 11 situation from occurring again, when attempts to establish contact with the pilot in the offending plane were made impossible due to a jammed radio frequency. Also, the Department of Homeland Security is deciding whether or not to utilize more Coast Guard helicopters to cover the considerably large airspace. NORAD spokesman Maj. Douglas Martin praised the efforts made, and added, “Thank God it’s only people making mistakes so far.”

HOT HYBRIDS

Continued from page 4

Even in comparison to low-emission diesel alternatives that are popular in Europe (about 50 percent of current sales), the more environmentally friendly hybrid gets 40 percent higher mileage per gallon than gasoline-powered cars, compared to diesel’s 25 percent. If the average number of miles per gallon in the U.S. was increased by one, it would save more oil in one year than twice the amount the Bush administration seeks to tap in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. If the market picks up (as Toyota reported a U.S. manufacturing increase from 36,000 to 47,000 hybrid Prius II’s last year), our consumption rate of foreign oil will drop from the 80 million barrels per day used now.

Although Bush challenged scientists to develop pure fuel-cell cars in his State of the Union address, the amount of government funding has been decreased. Most of the technological breakthroughs have been accomplished by private industry rather than government-funded developmental research. Even now, work is progressing on hybrid cars in an effort to bring future generations of hydrogen-

powered, electric or natural gas powered cars to life. Despite its beauty and spunk, however, the hybrid does cost a pretty penny (an average of \$3,500 more), and in spite of gas savings, expensive repair costs remain a barrier holding back potential buyers.

On a more positive note, the new hybrids developed so far are quieter and create much less air pollution. For once, being green is not so bad after all. Although they are “hybrids” and thus still depend somewhat on gas, by using electricity to supply much of the power at low speeds, shutting off the gas engine during stops significantly cuts emissions to “ultra-low” by EPA standards. Moreover, hybrids have not been shown to be any less safe than regular cars. Potential buyers concerned with a lack of space offered by the familiar four-doored hybrid may be satisfied to know that GM plans to crank out hybrid versions of its Chevy Tahoe and Yukon SUV models by 2007. Meanwhile, if you prefer a smooth, quiet ride that can accelerate on a dime thanks to electrically generated instant torque, yet at the same time satisfy your national and environmental qualms, shell out that extra \$2,000 to \$3,000—and you can have it.

Global News Tidbits

>> When parishioners of St. John’s Rectory in Cardiff, Wales become bored with the sermon of Reverend Keith Kimber, they no longer have to stare fixedly at the stained glass windows or aimlessly peruse the hymnals. BT Group Plc (a British telecom company) had a wifi connection installed in the church so that people can surf the net while attending services. (Reuters)

>> When 46-year-old Dean Craig’s guests would not leave his Aurora Township, Illinois home, he was upset. To get them to leave, he lit his house on fire by pouring rubbing alcohol on the floor and then igniting it with a lighter. Neither the guests nor Craig were injured, but he was taken to jail. (AP)

>> Staphorst, a village in the Dutch bible belt, has finally been able to clean itself up—by banning blasphemy. In a 13 to four vote, the city council decided to

supercede the right to free speech and follow what they believe the Bible tells them, making taking the Lord’s name in vain a punishable offense. (Reuters)

>> When Moni Mulepati and Pem Dorje Sherpa, both from Nepal, decided to surprise their families by getting married, they wanted to do it in style. So they became the first couple in history to get married atop Mount Everest. The bride’s father said that the wedding was “a surprise for us as we did not have even the slightest

hint about it.” (Ananova)

>> Why did the chicken cross the road? No one knows for sure, but it probably wasn’t to be ticketed by Johannesburg, California police officers. Because state laws make it illegal for livestock to be on highways, officials had to give a \$54 ticket to a chicken belonging to Linc and Helena Moore. But when the Moores’ lawyer argued that the chicken was domesticated and could not be charged as livestock, a judge dismissed the citation. (AP)

NEWS

Amtrak Off Track

BY AARON SUNSTEIN, I
NEWS EDITOR

Amtrak, the national passenger rail service within the continental United States, faces a potential loss of federal funding if President George Bush's proposed 2006 budget passes Congress. The Bush administration is attempting to force the company into liquidation and sell its remaining assets to private corporations. Under the Bush plan, a 50-50 federal match would be established for state investments in rail infrastructure, while the operation would be left to private entities. Amtrak says it cannot operate without the federal subsidies it currently receives. It argues that such subsidies are in line with those received by the airline



and trucking industries. Amtrak foes say that mismanagement has prevented the corporation from being profitable and serious reform must occur.

Amtrak was created when Congress passed the Rail Passenger Service Act of October 1970. It was a time when competition from airplanes and automobiles had come to a head. Infrastructure was crumbling: ancient cars, decayed track and dirty stations were the norm. Railroads could no longer afford to and did not want to run money-losing passenger trains.

Since its inception, Amtrak has struggled to achieve financial solvency, partly due to shifting congressional positions on the company. In 1997, the Amtrak Reform Act was passed with the goal of reaching operational self-sufficiency (i.e. eliminating federal subsidies) by 2002. Although many in the industry believed that this was an unrealistic goal, Congress and Amtrak management promoted this illusion. When the company ran out of money in 2002, Congress propped it up with a small appropriation. Now, however, the Bush administration and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta are pushing to enact their new plan.

The liquidation of Amtrak could result in the loss of thousands of jobs, puncture the federal transportation infrastructure and hurt businesses which are tied to passenger rail, such as merchants in train stations. For example, Union Stations that Amtrak serves in cities as di-

verse as Los Angeles, Seattle, Kansas City and New London, Connecticut have been restored, revitalizing downtown areas and promoting economic growth. In Boston, the restored South Station opened in 1989, and sparked the transformation and renewal of the Financial District with new development in the area.

The so called northeast corridor between Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C. would be particularly affected by Amtrak's bankruptcy. Frequent trains there, which are run on some of the only Amtrak-owned track in the nation, carry thousands of riders. According to Brian Reidl, a budget analyst for the conservative Heritage Foundation, Amtrak services in the Northeast are more likely to survive in private hands because of high demand. He says Amtrak is more likely to fail in the midwest because there is not as much need for its services in more rural areas.

Some rural communities, however, depend on Amtrak as a sole link to the outside world. A recent Boston Globe article spotlighted Browning, Montana as such a town. Amtrak is viewed by townspeople as a buffer against severe depopulation.

Montana's Democratic governor Brian Schweitzer echoes such sentiments. "It allows people to get in, it allows people to move back and forth, it creates jobs along here", he says. Critics point to the train that runs through Browning, the Empire Builder, as just the kind of money loser that Amtrak should eliminate. The train, which winds its way from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest daily, lost \$75 million in 2004. A 2003 Montana Department of Transportation study, however, found that the train contributed about \$14 million annually to the state's economy.

In an unlikely union, Republicans such as Senator Conrad Burns of Montana have joined forces with urban liberals to try and maintain Amtrak, but it is unclear whether they have enough support to prevail should the issue come to a vote. Amtrak's no-bones-about-it president David Gunn calls cuts in funding "irresponsible and a surprising disappointment." On the other hand Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta says that "Everyone agrees that Amtrak is on financial life support. But the answer to the problem is not throwing more money into a system that is fundamentally flawed. The answer is top-to-bottom reform." It is questionable whether legislators will be able to overcome such highly polarized views and decide conclusively whether passenger rail in the United States should be a publicly funded utility or a privately funded business.

highly selective schools where acceptance would be difficult, though not necessarily impossible, while "possibles" and "likelies" are schools where it is increasingly more likely. By having such a realistic and hopefully satisfactory list, students will not be limited come spring, when schools start sending out their rejection letters.

Nearly 11 percent of the BLS seniors surveyed reported that although they had indeed been accepted to their first choice colleges, they were not planning on attending them in the fall. Reasons for this varied: some students were dissatisfied with the size of the school, some decided that they wanted to be a bit farther away

Controversy
Surrounds Uzbek Deaths

BY KATIE HARRISON, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Over the past weeks, long-stifled popular resentment over Uzbek President Islam Karimov's authoritarian rule has boiled over in anti-government riots and large public demonstrations. In two uprisings that began on May 12 and 19, angry citizens of the towns of Andijan and Karasu stormed government buildings and were quickly joined by thousands of others in protest against Karimov's reign. Witnesses report that in Andijan, government troops that moved in to disperse the crowds of demonstrators fired on civilians, killing an estimated 700 people. Survivors claim that they fled 15 miles to the border to seek asylum in neighboring Kyrgyzstan.

Reliable information on the events in Uzbekistan is hard to come by. Even in less chaotic times, the Uzbek press is in large part an outpost of the government. Furthermore, the Fergana Valley, where the protests took place, is closed to foreigners, correspondents included. Not surprisingly, the government tells a very different story from that obtained by reporters. Karimov speaks of 169 armed rebels killed in combat, not 700 unarmed demonstrators massacred by soldiers as reported by witnesses.

The president has pressured the Kyrgyz government to return the Uzbeks who had fled across the border, saying that those calling themselves refugees are actually criminals fleeing justice. Kyrgyz officials agreed to return them, despite the United Nations' urgings to provide the refugees with protection. Kyrgyzstan is not a wealthy country, and neither the people nor the government have any wish to see the stream of people fleeing Andijan turn into a flood of thousands of impoverished Uzbeks.

The border towns where the uprisings occurred lie in the Fergana Valley, a region that straddles the Soviet-era borders of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The resistance to President Karimov has always been strongest in this Muslim-

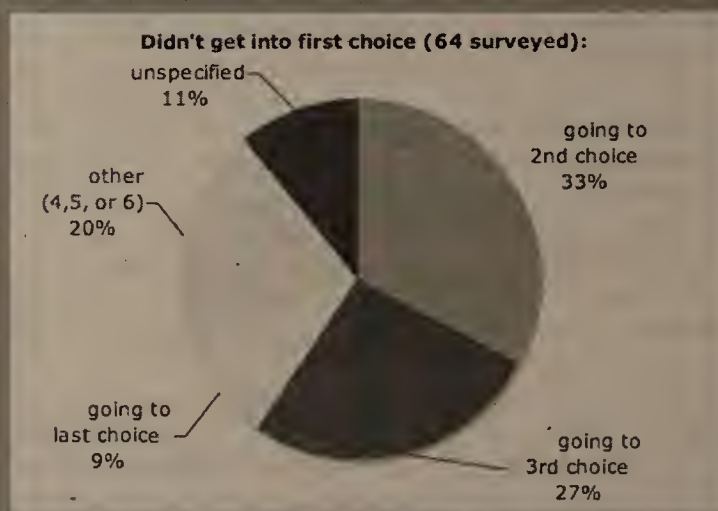
dominated region. While Karimov claims that protesters are Islamic extremists trying to replace his secular rule with an Islamic state, most protesters say that their anger has its roots in the economic stagnation and lack of individual freedoms that have marked the president's 15 years of rule, not in the teachings of any militant Islamic movement. Resentment, however, due to both the dire economic situation and oppressive climate created by the president's domestic policies has made it easy for any group promising reform to quickly gain a strong following. Reports of Karimov's recent brutality against protesters could easily fan the flames of the people's anger and drive them into the arms of Islamic militants.

President Karimov's strong stance against Islamic terrorist groups has gained him his most powerful ally: the United States. Karimov allowed the U.S. to build a military base in Uzbekistan as part of



PRESIDENT ISLAM KARIMOV, TOOK PLACE IN ANDIJAN

the campaign in Afghanistan following the terrorist attacks on September 11. From this alliance, Karimov has received nearly \$1 billion in aid since 1992, though some aid was cut off last year when U.S. laws prevented certain types of aid money from going to a nation with as poor human rights record as Uzbekistan's. Military cooperation, however, continues. The recent events in the Fergana Valley have put the United States in the awkward position of supporting a ruthless dictator over demands for fair government. U.S. officials have denounced the Karimov's repressive policies, but the Bush administration will have to move carefully to maintain its ties to the strategically important nation without supporting the policies of a regime that continues its abuse of human rights.



could afford. In some cases, it did preclude their first choice." In a nation like the United States, where college tuition and financial aid are such prominent concerns, even BLS students must often overcome difficult financial circumstances in order to secure seats at top universities.

Next fall, 45.3 percent of the 128 seniors surveyed will be merrily setting up inflatable furniture in dorms at their first choice colleges. Most students who were not accepted to their first choice are attending their second or third. This year's graduating class may not be entirely happy with where they're going, but there is an obvious feeling of relief to have survived years of intense labor as a BLS student.

FIRST CHOICE

Continued from Page 2

school, the University of Pennsylvania, she was accepted to and plans to attend Harvard.

In a school that so emphasizes college preparation, only five percent of surveyed seniors claimed not to have had a first choice college. In the BLS College Handbook, the school encourages students to make a list of colleges not only based upon their interests in attending each, but also upon the likelihood of admittance. The "reach," "possible" and "likely" schools expected to be on each student's list are exactly what they seem. The "reaches" are

FORUM

Movie Remakes

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Lights, camera, action! ... again?

By LOUIS VENTURELLI, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." "War of the Worlds." "The Pink Panther." Any of these films sound familiar? They're all coming out this summer, they all star major actors and they've all been done before.

The age of the remake is upon us. Is Hollywood shamelessly milking classics to sell us used goods in a shiny new wrapper? Probably. After all, there's no doubt that sticking a familiar name on a production brings in more revenue. The same tired plot line is played out year after year in "new" feature films, so why not try to make a bit more money with a recycled idea but a bigger title? People will watch either way.

Putting aside our cynicism towards Hollywood's monetary motives, remakes give directors, actors and crews a unique artistic opportunity: the chance to present their own alternate vision of a classic idea. In fact, it is only those remakes which attempt to recreate shot by shot the films from which they are inspired, such as 1998's "Psycho," that incense the public. They provide no new perspective on a story nor do they give insight to an original film. The movies which truly shine are those that remold the style of their predecessors and transform them into something truly amazing and unique—a "new" film and artistic achievement in its own right. Take "Scarface," for example. Yes, folks, the Al Pacino hit was in fact a remake of a 1932 film of the same name. Both are gangster films, but whereas one depicts 1930's Gangland America, the other focuses on 1980's Miami and the rise and fall of an immigrant crime lord. The result is that the same underlying themes are preserved while a radically different film is produced.

The new "Ocean's Eleven" was a box office smash, for example, full of the same high caliber dialogue and solid performances that 1960's audiences loved. It was, by most accounts and by the words of critics, how a remake should be done. George Clooney's success as Daniel Ocean does not take away from that of Frank Sinatra—it is an entirely new film for longtime fans and new audiences alike to enjoy. What about "The Longest Yard?" That's been done before. So, too, has "The Italian Job." "Fever Pitch" was not only a remake, but also a book adaptation. In spite of this, all these films accomplished what they set out to do: to be enjoyable.

Remakes give us a fresh perspective on what can be stale material. "The Manchurian Candidate," released in 2004, altered the scenario of the original film, in which Communist perpetrators manned a mind-control scheme, into a situation much more familiar: a nefarious corporation. Whatever can be said about the acting or directing aside, such a plot strikes a chord with more viewers nowadays than the former story of the Cold War.

With the tide of promising remakes being released this year, audiences should keep an open mind towards this summer's fare. Johnny Depp looks to be just as frightening, yet funny as Gene Wilder in the original "Chocolate Factory," and the films he has made in the past with director Tim Burton have become cult classics. "War of the Worlds" may just breathe life again into alien invasions by revisiting H.G. Wells' classic novel. As for "The Pink Panther," Peter Sellers can never be replaced, but Steve Martin's quirky comedy will surely provide a few laughs.

Ultimately, dismissing all remakes denies them the right to exist on their own—to fight and sometimes die on the box office battlefield. We need to stop treating movies as untouchable relics and see them as what they are: entertainment. If a remake is horrific, God-awful filth, so be it. But if even one is funnier, more dramatic, more endearing or just plain better than its original, it has done its job and deserves our respect.

The case for remakes is simple. Did you ever enjoy seeing one? Yes? Thank you. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go watch Tony Montana and his little friend.

By SARAH PARISI, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The case against movie remakes is simple: there's no logic in fixing what isn't broken.

Why then do Hollywood producers insist on updating old films? If there's nothing wrong with Gene Wilder and "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," why pull Johnny Depp into the fray?

Which is exactly what Tim Burton, king of all that is faintly macabre, has done, twisting the old classic into a new-age adventure complete with 40 real squirrels for the "nut-room scene." Burton has clearly fallen under the "anything you can do, I can do better" spell: taking an old favorite of Roald Dahl and reshaping it into a nouveau 21st century adventure. Granted, it can be argued that such adoption of ideas is the sincerest form of flattery. It is also, however, the sincerest form of lack of creativity.

If a producer admires and has enjoyed the creation of another, how can he feel entitled to alter it? Is he desperate for acclaim? Has he completely botched every other opportunity to have his work known? Is he perhaps lacking innovative skills?

Clearly, Tim Burton fits into none of these categories. Having produced and written such marvels as "Big Fish" in 2003 and "The Nightmare Before Christmas" 10 years earlier, he is neither lacking talent nor insight. Yet, he still proceeds to cast Johnny Depp and his own wife, Helena Bonham Carter, in a 2005 flick of the same plot as the original "Chocolate Factory," claiming that his version is based not on the 1964 version of the film but the book itself. Well, wasn't the original based on the book as well?

Tim Burton and company are not the only ones guilty of such a trespass. Lindsay Lohan is getting behind the wheel of the iconic Volkswagen Beetle—featuring "Herbie" this summer in a remake of the original movies produced between 1969 and 1980—only this time, Herbie is "Fully Loaded." Steve Martin is in the process of refreshing the "Pink Panther" series, and Cedric the Entertainer is dusting off "The Honeymooners," which promises to be just as trite as it was in 1955.

The ability of these actors and producers is not to be underestimated, but why ruin an already perfectly good film? When movies are of good quality, they are timeless—the quintessence of a job well done in the film industry. They display not only the talent of the actors, but that of the director, the producers and the writers. If a movie is brilliant enough to have made its mark in cinematic entertainment for all time, is it not an insult to produce it again? Would that not be implying that the movie is simply not good enough, and that it takes a contemporary perspective to make it right?

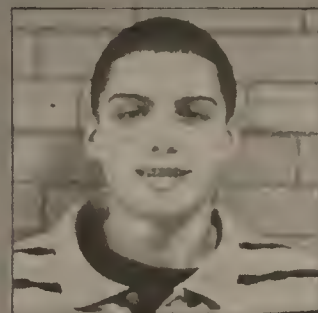
Granted, some films can benefit from the advent of new convincing special effects. Everyone can name at least two movies in which the aliens, ghosts or monsters were so blatantly artificial that their very presence was comical, and served only to distract the audience rather than captivate them. For example, if "The Fantastic Four" had been made into a movie from the original comic book 50 years ago, the characters would appear ridiculous, not fantastic. In 2005, Michael Chiklis, in order to fully persuade the imagination, takes three hours to don the 60-lb. latex costume and makeup, effects that would have been unavailable to filmmakers and actors in previous decades.

Interestingly enough, the "updating curse" does not befall only full-length movies and comics. "Bewitched," a 1960's sitcom whose reruns are still broadcast on cable, is being converted into a movie. The new film, however, is actually about renewing the television show—a movie within a movie. The catch is that, while looking for an actress talented enough to replace Samantha, played by Elizabeth Montgomery, the casting directors come across a woman who is an actual witch, played by Nicole Kidman, who casts spells by—you guessed it—wiggling her nose.

I like a good laugh as much as anyone else. But Nicole Kidman will never be Elizabeth Montgomery, and Lindsay Lohan seems out of place behind the wheel of Herbie, even if the car is fully-loaded. Sometimes, works of art need to be left as works of art in their original form. It is more professional to acknowledge a movie's impact and let it be, rather than to try to improve something that needs no refining in the first place.

Forum Question

Do you think movie remakes are good or bad? Why?



MICHELLE YAN (IV)

"They can be good I guess. Some people just run out of ideas though."
— Alejandro Smith, I



MICHELLE YAN (V)

"They're good because it shows old movie ideas to a new generation."
— Yelun Qin, II



MICHELLE YAN (VI)

"The original movies are better because when the director is remaking the movie, he is trying to outdo the previous movie. He tries too hard and it turns out badly."
— David Whitaker, III



MICHELLE YAN (VII)

"I think that if the original movie was good then there's no need to remake it. If it's bad...why would you want to see the same movie, just with different characters?"

— Rhea Kroutil, IV



MICHELLE YAN (VIII)

"No, because they're not original enough and the original one would be messed up."

— Shirley Yu, V



MICHELLE YAN (IX)

"I think they're bad! The original movie is often never heard of and the remake is usually corny or worse."

— Noelia Lopez, VI

FORUM

P.S. Write Black

By ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
STAFF WRITER

Each time I contributed an article to the *Argo* this year, I was almost guaranteed to hear the following: "Uh...Ethi, please don't tell me that you're writing another one of your 'Black Power' rants." To which I always responded with a resounding "Hell yeah!" As I end my yearlong career of writing for the school newspaper, I feel as though I owe Isaac, the rest of the staff of the *Argo* and my classmates an explanation for my obsession with issues of race and matters that concern the black community within Boston Latin School.

First of all, I resent the term "Black Power." It is a phrase that has become distorted by its association with such so-called "radical groups" as the Black Panther Party and the Nation of Islam, which the white community viewed as the black equivalent of the Ku Klux Klan. In reality, these groups gave voice to many economically disadvantaged and politically isolated African-Americans, especially outside of the South. They were formidable and influential agents during the civil rights era who were able to effect positive change within their communities. While Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement are more commonly credited for the successful implementation of the Civil Rights Act, their efforts would not nearly have been as successful without the fear that such "radical" groups instilled. Moreover, they were never physically abusive or barbaric in any of their practices. Instead, they used history, language and collective gathering to motivate change within their own communities.

Secondly, I write about what I care about, about what concerns me and what I feel will benefit my audience. In my years at Latin School, I have read few articles that pertained to the black struggle and the role of the African-American within his school, community or country. In many ways, I felt an obligation to write about these matters due to their glaring absence from former *Argo*

issues.

I chose to write for the Forum section because I highly value my right to express my opinions freely and in written form. Throughout the years, I have always enjoyed the day that the *Argo* is distributed as I find the articles of my peers an exciting and invigorating way through which to interact with them. Yet it has always occurred to me that there were few black students writing for the *Argo*, and those black students who did write for the paper rarely dealt with issues that directly concerned our culture, history or fight. This baffled me. Perhaps regularly reading *Essence* and *Black Enterprise Magazine* forced me to have unrealistic expectations from the writing staff of the *Argo*, but nonetheless, I was impelled to write articles that I wanted to see, and that I felt were conspicuously absent from previous issues.

Writing for the *Argo* this year has been an especially rewarding and exciting experience. While most of this excitement was generated by the fact that I submitted most of my articles seconds before the issue was set to print, I have nonetheless formed a deep relation with writing through contributing to the paper. As a young black woman, I feel that communicating my opinions in written form is an especially important skill to have and to hone. I credit the *Argo* with polishing my skills and further projecting my interest in a career in journalism, which will undoubtedly lead to my taking



MEMBERS OF BLACK PANTHER GATHER IN A 1968 PROTEST

over "Oprah!" in 2011.

Of course, the issue of monotony in style arises on my part. My overuse of "black" issues for topics in the *Argo* has caused many to deem them the bantering of a narrow-minded closeted racist, whose only concern in the world revolves around her own race. I do not expect to please everyone or even interest everyone with my topic choices. Instead, I choose only to identify problems that relate to my own experience as a black female and discuss them. I have certainly made an attempt to broaden my scope with each issue, such as my article on financial aid—and that was only once. But the point is, there is a need for articles that address these issues. If I had my way, I would create a new section of the *Argo* which is devoted to student opinions specifically regarding race relations, demonstrating how these perspectives

vary due to ethnicity, gender and age. I think that especially within the United States, race is such a critical and intricate part of society and history that it deserves a particularly close examination of its complexities and controversies.

So, as I take my last bow, I urge underclassmen to contribute to all sections of this student publication. I especially encourage students of color to voice their opinions concerning race, culture and language. Too often do I hear students complaining of the lack of attention that students of color receive, or the inability to change race relations within the student body as well as the faculty. The *Argo* is a channel through which you have the opportunity to voice such opinions. It can bring about change, motivating and influencing your classmates to action. Take advantage of it, become proactive and you shall overcome!

How to Deal with Kim Jong Il

By MAX MACRIDES, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Although the North Korean nuclear crisis is no longer receiving the media attention it once did, there is no doubt that our friends in East Asia still pose a serious threat. Kim Jong Il is suspected to have several nuclear bombs in his possession with plans to manufacture more. He has withdrawn from the six-party talks sponsored by our nation, and his only ally is China. Even putting aside these concerns, the unsettling fact remains that Kim is mentally unstable.

So, what can the United States do with a madman in possession of a nuclear bomb?

If we fail to take action, we may find ourselves faced with the worst case scenario. There is little strategic gain for North Korea to use the weapons against us directly. However, North Korea's potential aggression within its own sphere could utterly destroy the northern half of the Korean

Peninsula. Our own intervention would make the tragedies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki pale in comparison. If Kim does choose to use his military might

many lives will be lost. Thus, we must find a solution to end this crisis without resorting to war.

Thankfully, we already have a system in place for dealing with evil communist regimes hoarding nuclear weapons: economic strangulation. Some have argued that the United States should make economic allowances to North Korea in order to placate its aggression. Some have even suggested that we ought to bribe Kim with the hopes that he will remain true to his word. This strategy, however, is gravely flawed. North Korea has proved time and again that it is not trustworthy and will not accept compromise. It will only abuse our generosity, and once its economic security is attained, it will continue to threaten other nations with nuclear weapons. For this reason, North Korea must be stripped of its arms and reactors completely so the threat it poses currently—and will pose in the future given an economic revival—can be fully eliminated.

It is clear even now that North Korea can barely feed its army, let alone its own people. If the country cannot afford to maintain its own troops, then it must give up its weapons. Once we are able to corner North Korea in such a position, the leverage of the global community will force it to bow down and become submissive and dependent on our own aid for its survival.

The most important factor of the North Korean crisis is China's role as its ally. Such a position allows the People's Republic to survey closely how we handle this situation, providing it a springboard to launch a future threat. After all, in spite of its pretenses of friendly diplomacy, the ruling party in China harbors great antipathy towards the West and specifically toward the United States. It is imperative then that we do not appear weak. We must stay strong for the sake of both our allies in South Korea and in Taiwan.

As national news stories push the North Korean crisis from the spotlight and as we delicately deal with the intervening force China poses, one duty remains eminently clear: we must force North Korea to give in wholly to our demands. For only then may we ensure the security of our nation and that of the international community.



KIM JONG IL OFFERS "NUKES" TO HIS FRIENDS

to punch a hole through the Demilitarized Zone and invade South Korea, too much territory will be ravaged, too

Semi-formal, Semi-senseless

By JULIA ARNOUS, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

"It's black, sleeveless, v-neck down to here (points to belly button), and it's got ruffles, and lace, and rhinestones!" The sophomore semi-formal was held on Friday, June 3, and for weeks beforehand, if you asked any female member of Class III to describe what she planned to wear to the event, this would be her response. Though in much, much more detail.

After all, there were three major issues with the semi: preparation, location, and anticipation *ad nauseam*. She was dealing with the first one.

When you thought she was finally finished, she wasn't. And when she said she was, you didn't believe her. The recitation would invariably begin with a description of The Dress, in agonizing detail. She'd then go on to narrate the trials and tribulations she went through in finding it, and finding a pair of shoes in a shade exactly matching that of her dress, not to mention the difficulty she had in deciding what handbag to carry and what jewelry to wear.

As if this weren't stressful enough—far more important than anything else that was going on in the world around her, be it homework, politics, war, or remembering to both inhale and exhale—she then had to face an even more alarming trial. She would assail you with an account of the measures she was forced to take in order to secure herself one very important accessory, perhaps the most important of all: a date. Naturally, he had been largely uncooperative, and seemingly oblivious to her advances. It had taken him a while to catch on, and when

he finally had, it had been a great relief. She had accepted his invitation and, with renewed vigor, resumed preparations for the biggest night of her life.

Everything had been going fine until she had realized that, though she and her companion seemed to be about the same height, he indeed was the shorter of the two. She almost lost consciousness in the initial moments of her panic. She did, however, eventually devise a clever plan to hide the truth from the world: she would go barefoot.

Now, here was a modern fairy tale

There is absolutely nothing wrong with the idea of some hardworking high-schoolers enjoying a dance in their wannabe-suburban school cafeteria—uh, I mean dining hall. (Why the less-than-magical location? Rumor has it that last year's semi committee, in an effort to perfect the most amazing night of the sophomores' young lives, accrued a rather large debt. The juniors this year tried to sell tacky wristbands, but they didn't exactly succeed—which meant tragedy for the wide-eyed sophomore class.) Except

no matter how many righteous reminders that this "cafeteria" is really a "dining hall," the fact remains that it's a mosaic of ugly purple tiling, and a few pieces of *real* crêpe aren't going to change that.

Besides, it's not like it's the prom. There are no excuses for going all starry-eyed and nostalgic over "Here's to the Night" on mental replay. Though there indeed is "only one semi," there will be a whole lot of other silly social events for the Class of 2007 to giggle at and squeal about, and there's no need to milk this one for more than its pail-full.

It would have been nice if we were spared the epic battles over escorts, or if the members of Class III cared as much about world affairs as they did about a dance in the school "dining hall." But at least it's all over.

Until the prom.



"FROM URBAN TEEN TO FANTASY QUEEN, SHE'S EVERY GIRL" - MATTEL™

full of passion and intrigue. However, in spite of its marvel, in spite of its intensity, this same tale, with its versions and variations told again and again, day after day, had the unfortunate consequence of trivializing the debutantes, their dresses, and their dates.

Politically Incorrect

By FRANKLIN HO, I
FORUM EDITOR

In elementary school, we learned that Christopher Columbus was a great man who came to the Americas and sowed the seeds of Western civilization in the New World. We learned that John Smith saved Jamestown by whipping the colonists into shape. We learned that Thanksgiving was a celebration of the harmony between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans.

A decade later and deeper into our education, we know the truth. We know that Columbus started a slave trade and forced terrible cruelties on the Native Americans. We know that the Jamestown colonists gave other Native Americans blankets infected with smallpox as the first form of biological warfare.

Now, imagine if we did not learn all of that. Imagine if omissions of vital historical facts were widely accepted in the school system. Imagine that, and you'll get a general sense of the situation in Japan.

Recently, Japan made a bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, spurring a series of protests by enraged Chinese students. Their primary argument is that, even after fifty years, the Japanese have failed to completely acknowledge the atrocities they committed in World War II, and thus are unfit to be a permanent part of the U.N.'s primary decision making body.

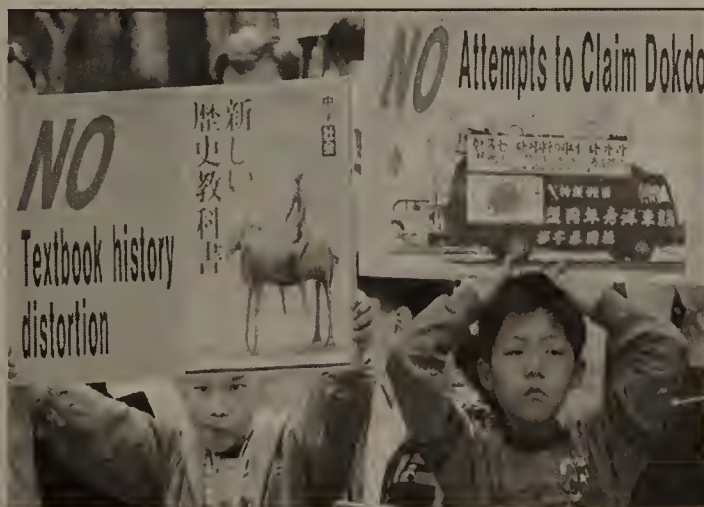
The events that students cited as examples of inexcusable Japanese atrocities were the Nanjing Massacre, which claimed over 300,000 lives (notwithstanding the number of women raped), and the testing of biological weapons on rural Chinese citizens by Unit 731. The Chinese have also indicated Japan's culpability in such affairs as the keeping of Korean comfort women

in war crimes of the past, who's to say that they are capable of dealing with those of the present?

A permanent seat on the U.N. security council is representative of a nation's intention to cooperate with the rest of the international world. It is a position of leadership and power, ultimately allowing the holder to govern and rule on decisions which affect not only the lives of its own citizens, but those of people beyond their borders.

Japan has much to lose from admitting to its inhumane crimes of the past century. By publicly stating that it did commit such atrocities, it loses face and damages the morale of its people. Its position in the international world, however, would not be weakened, nor would its chances at the seat on the U.N. Security council be harmed. It would ease tensions with neighboring countries like China and Korea. It would set a precedent for upholding historical accuracy and demonstrate that former belligerent nations, such as Japan, are finally ready to own up to their wrongdoing.

This issue goes far beyond Japan's bid for a position of power. This controversy transcends pride or international relations. It is a matter of the individuals who suffered in World War II. Let's just hope that Japan will make the right moral choice and will begin to heal the scar it has left on human history.



CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN ANTI-JAPANESE DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

and the deaths of POWs in forced labor camps during World War II.

Flip open any history textbook in Japan and you will find these events portrayed in an alarmingly mild manner. Until recently, the aforementioned war crimes would not have been mentioned at all, leaving Japanese students widely unaware of the darker side of their country's history. Which brings up an interesting question: if Japan is unwilling to admit its involvement

Security

By QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, V
COLUMNIST

In the last few weeks, if you've been unfortunate enough to pass by the "bathrooms" on the third floor, you may have noticed maximum security swarming the small, tiled rooms formerly known as the "lavatories." Surprisingly, these measures used to secure the doors are not the result of a temporary CIA establishment, as I was led to believe by troops of prowling praefects throwing suspicious glances at me as I passed "The Room." Instead, the new security is part of a system used to crack down on unhinged arsonists such as the person(s) responsible for setting off the multiple recent fire alarms. "They"—whoever these mysterious third person plural antagonistic bosses may be—figure that this precaution will help ensnare the menace(s), although it should be mentioned that after this "trap" was "implemented," another fire was set at the beginning of an MCAS testing session.

On a completely relevant note, I calmly walked into math class a few days ago to behold the disgustingly frightening sight of the TV featuring, to my horror, my classmates dancing in the hall. BLSTV has a hallway camera set up in the corridor outside of their studio. For what purpose the camera exists, besides inspiring people to imitate Napoleon Dynamite's moves in front of it, remains unclear. Perhaps the tech humans should justify their actions by claiming the device is preventing fires from being set in the hall there?

Obviously, only one explanation exists to explain this sudden trend of suspicious gadgets and maximum security springing in the school.

Before we can say supercalifragilisticexpialidocious ten times in unison, the whole school will be under constant surveillance. Little cameras will be attached to the front of agenda books so that administrators will know at all times where a student—or [insert student number]—is. Fairly soon, as you're walking to class, you'll come upon a door marked "Homeland Security: You can say farewell to freedom, but you'll be safer!" which you will swear was never there before, and an officer will come out of the room and tell you that he saw you were far too close to the office of the department head, which he noticed as he was surveying the Agenda-cams. Believe me, it won't be pretty. But even if no more fires are set, administrators will find themselves possessed by an Anakin-like thirst for revenge and continue down this path of anger that leads to fear that leads to destruction that leads to the dark side, explaining their actions with a we-need-to-prevent-it-from-happening-again mentality. Or to reword that last sentence for those of you whose brains have already shut down for summer vacation, what if "they" are too far gone already?

So, what can we do about these Big Brothers waiting to pounce on our poor defenseless heads? Well, the said unhinged arsonists can stop being arson-istic and indulging in their pyromania. But then again, suggestions are always welcome...

Before I sign off for the last time to all of you (mostly beautiful) seniors (approximately... 710 school days left 'til graduation... breathe...) and before the tears start flowing, I would just like to say—sniff—thank you. Thank you for being here, supporting me by reading my articles—sniff—and standing by me through thick and thin. I don't even have to know you personally to know this, 'cause I have, like, ESPN or something. So, I would just like to say thank you. Good luck and visit me often. Love, the genius formerly known as Queen.

FORUM

Trump-eting His Own Horn

By YUCONG MA, II
A&E EDITOR

If Donald Trump were ever to apply for a job, he would present an impressive resume: alumnus of the Wharton School of Finance and University of Pennsylvania, skyscraper and real estate developer of the Trump Organization since 1968, author of how-to books like "Surviving At the Top" and "How to Get Rich," and most recently, host of the NBC reality show "The Apprentice." Applying for a job, however, is a hypothetical situation for Trump thanks to his numerous companies, hotels and casino resorts. It is pretty clear that Donald Trump has a way with money. But let's not confuse money with talent and brains.

In May of 2005, Trump attempted to introduce a new design for the "Freedom Tower," the name of the building and memorial to be constructed on Ground Zero in New York City, in memory of those who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks. The original plan, chosen from a global competition, had been in place since February 2003. It calls for a 1,776-foot tower and a 276-foot spire, echoing the Statue of Liberty, as well as a 4.5-acre area to accommodate a memorial for the victims of September 11. According to the *New York Post*, Trump called it "an egghead design, designed by an egghead." Daniel Libeskind, the egghead in question,

is Ground Zero master planner and has co-designed the original plan with David Childs. Currently, the design is backed by \$4 billion in insurance proceeds as well as by most of New York's political figures,



headed by Governor George Pataki. Ironically, the billionaire and real estate mogul simply responded with a lament: "I only have the power of persuasion."

Just what kind of a design is Trump persuading the American public to accept, anyway? At least it's simple—a 111-story version of the old design. Merely a story taller than the original towers, the 1,474-

foot structures are a manifestation of Trump's dream to rebuild the World Trade Center. Trump defends this design with a comparison to the Statue of Liberty: "I was flying over the Statue of Liberty, and I said

to myself, 'You know, if that ever came down, they wouldn't replace it with something that didn't look like the Statue of Liberty.'" Correct, Mr. Trump, but the World Trade Center was not a uniquely shaped

structure. Whereas the Statue of Liberty has a distinct and individual silhouette, the set of two rectangular towers could have easily been mistaken at a distance for any other skyscraper in the world, were it not for their significant height.

While the design proposed by Trump has its own logic, there were several

reasons for the original choice. For one, the Freedom Tower was meant to serve as a reminder to future generations of the horrors of terrorism, not as a monolith to overshadow the original structure. Moreover, Trump's plan would involve scrapping the plans for the memorial. Immediately after the September 11 attacks, the conspicuous absence of the twin towers across the New York City skyline served as ample reminder of the horrors of terrorism. But if Donald Trump's towers are built, in time it will become easier to forget the tragedy that once occurred there. America is not invincible, and was not on September 11, 2001. Thanks to Donald Trump, future generations will have even taller towers behind which to hide.

Donald Trump is only a businessman, an opinionated one at that, and one whose architectural flair extends about as far as emblazoning his last name on the side of skyscrapers. The owner of the "Trump Taj Mahal" now wants another building to add to that list of Trump creations, and is willing to ignore the opinions of those who lost loved ones on September 11 to get his way. But those who seek to consecrate Ground Zero with an eye towards good taste, thought and quality would do well to ignore the maxim that Donald Trump holds dear to his heart: bigger is better.

Additional reporting from CNN and the New York Post.

So, what about Sudan?

By THOMAS GRAZIANO, II
STAFF WRITER

April 2005 saw the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a calculated campaign of ethnic killing ignited by the Ottomans during the First World War. It also marked the passing of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust, which claimed over 11 million victims, six million of whom were Jews. In China, after decades of friction with Japan, underlying anger resulted in violent protests after a revision of a Japanese national history textbook glossed over such wartime atrocities as wholesale sex slavery and the 1937 pillaging of the city of Nanking that claimed over 300,000 lives. The anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide fell on April of last year, an event especially noted by Don Cheadle's Oscar-nominated performance in the haunting film "Hotel Rwanda."

In light of this year's preponderance of somber reminders and sobering revisits to some of the 20th century's worst, yet preventable catastrophes, the greatest tragedy of all is that the new century opens with the world sleepwalking through yet another disaster: Sudan. Like Rwanda, Sudan and its western region of Darfur are located in Central Africa and are of little strategic value to the United States. Conflict in the region between black African tribal farmers and government-backed Arab militiamen, the *janjaweed*, erupted in February of 2003, and quickly devolved into an unmistakable case of genocide at the hands of the lighter-skinned Arabs. Thus far, it is estimated that at least 200,000 have perished in the horrific state-sponsored campaign of terror.

Sadly, the apathy of the global community towards Darfur has dragged on for over two years now. The current administration has taken

the important step of finally assenting to the fact that these killings are indeed genocide. Simply recognizing evil alone, however, does not amount to doing good in Darfur. Harrowing tales of rape and murder are still emerging on a daily basis. The UN World Food Program recently estimated that 3.5 million refugees are in need of food

the African Union, a 53-nation body. Proposals for troop support from Western democracies, suggestions weak to begin with, have been opposed by both civilians in those nations and the Sudanese government, the latter of which regards European or American forces on its soil as a threat to national sovereignty.



AN ARAB MILITIAMAN SHOOTS AT THE SKY.

handouts. Moreover, the planting season, skipped this year because of the violence in the area, will only exacerbate the situation of the current food shortages, leaving little hope for improvement in the coming months.

More must be done in Darfur if the bloodshed is to cease. Genocidal regimes have traditionally desisted from their killing only after outside military force intervened. In Darfur, the force available is composed of some 2,300 poorly funded troops from

With such intervention ruled out, the West can only aid the Sudan and, in particular, the beleaguered African Union, monetarily. On May 27, various donor nations pledged roughly \$300 million to support the overextended force currently tasked to secure a shaky cease-fire. The African Union plans to expand its force to 12,000 men by September, a move which will likely improve the affairs in the Darfur.

Unfortunately, more than twice

the amount of current funds is needed to maintain such a force.

A change in these forces' mandate is also essential if the violence is to end. Their role must be transformed from one of peacekeeping to one of genocide prevention. In Rwanda 11 years ago, peacekeepers remained on standby mere feet away from killings simply because they were not being directly harmed. Such inaction can only be prevented in Darfur if the African Union outfits its forces with adequate resources. As the region is roughly the size of France, total security from marauding militias would prove virtually impossible even with the proposed AU force in place. The expansion is a start, but increasing the number of men on the ground alone will not halt the atrocities. Granting them the power to intervene where needed will, however, do much to deter future violence.

The past 12 months have seen many somber memorials to the victims of some of the 20th century's worst episodes of inhumanity. They have also witnessed an unprecedented global outpouring of support for the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. All the while, however, the world has continued to ignore yet another incident of a genocide whose perpetrators have already claimed nearly as many lives as December's catastrophe. As the meaning of the words "Never Again" has been gradually lost in quibbling over semantics and overwhelming apathy, the world's powers have again stood idly by as hundreds of thousands of lives have been swept away in violence that was far from "preordained." Even before the long road toward justice and reconciliation can be taken, Darfur must be made habitable for the survivors, and steps must be followed to assure their continued safety in light of a profoundly evil regime that would have them all slaughtered.

SENIOR SECTION

Out of the frying pan, and into...

College attendance for the
Class of 2005

Peter Abichaker	Suffolk University	Carl Goodrich	Syracuse University	Daphné Norvin	Boston University
Rebecca Adams	University of South Carolina	Andrew Gordon	University of Delaware	Michael Nucci	Suffolk University
Ana Agan	Boston University	Elizabeth Gordon	Boston University	James O'Brien	Fairfield University
Samuel Akiba	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Monica Greene	Bentley College	Sean O'Brien	Lake Forest College
Caitlin Allen	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Ishnane Guillet	Northeastern University	Martha O'Connell	Cornell University
Nathan Allukian	Phillips-Exeter Academy	Magdalena Gyftopoulos	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Marco Oldsman	Boston University
Ethiopiiah Al-Mahdi	Middlebury College	Nicholas Haidar	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	Monique Oliveira	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Somaliyah Al-Mahdi	Amherst College	Emma Halas-O'Connor	Bates College	Eric Olson	Providence College
Reginald Alouidor	Northeastern University	Natalie Halloran	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Gina Papagiorgakis	Northeastern University
Dennis Alvarez	Massachusetts Bay Community College	Reema Hamad	Boston College	Yvonne Parks	Iona College
Daniel Anderson	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Patricia Hao	Harvard College	Anthony Pasquale	University of Connecticut
Laura Andreasson	Roger Williams University	Shantale Harb	Bentley College	Jack Payette	University of New Hampshire
Anusha Anukanth	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Louis Harris	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Ferdinand Percentie	University of Pennsylvania
Stephen Armandt	Gordon College	Evan Hartwig	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	An Thai Pham	Boston College
Rima Azar	Suffolk University	Christopher-Hawkins	Coppin State College	Minh Phuong Pham	University of North Texas
Christine Baker	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Jia Yi He	Tufts University	Tuan Pham	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Katie Balaconis	Boston University	Lydia Heitman	University of Southern California	William Phan	Harvard College
Tiana Barros	Harvard College	Marcus Hemenway	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Stacey Phillips	School of Visual Arts
Victoria Bartolome	Brown University	Natasha Herbert	Spelman College	Jamie Lee Pickup	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Peter Bass	McGill University	Cristina Hernandez	Bridgewater State College	Meredith Picree	Skidmore College
Jciff Bausermer	Sarah Lawrence College	Molly Higgins	University of California-Berkeley	Megan Pitts	Loyola University-New Orleans
Preston Bays	Brandeis University	Paige Hill	Hofstra University	Bora Plaku	Princeton University
Lauren Belmonte	Bridgewater State College	Cameron Hinton	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Wilson Poon	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Martin Bernal	Boston College	Frankline Ho	McGill University	Danielle Prahl	University of Southern California
Benjamin Bernard	Goucher College	Brian Holland	Syracuse University	Ania Preneta	Wesleyan University
Carolyn Bird	University of Southern California	Derek Howell	Berklee College of Music	Lakia Prince	Suffolk University
Justin Blecharczyk	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Steven Hu	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Rebecca Quinn	Boston University
Kevin Bonarrigo	University of Maine	Andrea Huang	Babson College	Jesse Racusen	Pratt Institute
Emma Breibart-White	Sarah Lawrence College	Jeffrey Hull	Columbia University	Allan Ramel	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Katrina Brewster	Regis College	Daniela Huynh	Boston University	Katherine Ramey	University of Arizona
Marah Brown	Boston College	Johnny Huynh	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Inderia Ranger	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Sarah Brown	University of Connecticut	Paul Hynes	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	Anushree Ray	Cornell University
Aquila Browne	University of Massachusetts-Lowell	Mercy Imayhierobo	Tufts University	Michael Regan	Undecided
John Bruno	Boston College	Kamile Ivanauskaite	Northeastern University	Tiffany Reid	University of Hartford
Michelle Bruno	St. John's University-New York	Maggie Jack	Harvard College	James Repass	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Rashaad Bryant	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Lily Jalbert	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Leo Rezil	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
James Bucilla	Union College	Hantz Jeanlouis	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Leigh Richie	Duke University
Han Bui	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Sully Jereidini	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	Diane Rivera	Tufts University
Gregory Burke	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Emerald Johnson	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Evan Roche	Suffolk University
Philip Burke	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Michelle Jones	Boston College	Daniel Rodrigues	Fitchburg State College
Mimi Cai	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Joseph Kane	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Alexandra Rogers	Trinity College
Riccardo Calixte	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Monty Kaplan	Clark University	Alberto Rojas	Suffolk University
Brittany Canniff	Colby College	Richard Karski	University of Wisconsin	Joel Rosen	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Kaitlyn Carney	Long Island University - CW Post	Michael Keegan	Bentley College	Hannah Ross	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Kasey Carroll	St. Michael's College	Kristina Keller	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Brian Rowell	Massachusetts Bay Community College
Burt Carter	Georgia Institute of Technology	Daniel Kelly	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Elizabeth Russell	Wellesley College
Catherine Chan	Northeastern University	Hung An Kim	Amherst College	Meredith Santana	Cornell University
Christopher Chan	Danny Ko	Rozalia Kocjan	Northeastern University	Anna Schnur-Fishman	Brown University
Eric Chan	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Susana Kostaras	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Elizabeth Sculley	Bennington College
Joanne Chan	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	James Kostyla	Tulane University	Laura Seger	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
Kerby Chan	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Ulrike Kraeft	Emmanuel College	Balimkiz Senman	Wellesley College
Louis Chan	Boston College	Benjamin Kugler	Undecided	Alyson Sheehan	Harvard College
Camilo Chao	Boston College	Padraic Lacey	University of Hartford	Burton Shen	Harvard College
Dasha Chestukhin	Georgetown University	Jonathan Lam	University of Vermont	Anna Sherr	Vassar College
Edward Chiu	Undecided	Norman Lam	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Frank Shi	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Josephine Chou	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	Son Ca Lam	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Emily Shum	University of Southern California
Chang Chow	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Thanh Lam	Hampshire College	Nancy Shum	Bryn Mawr College
Wing Wen Choy	Boston University	Elizabeth Lanier	James Madison University	Anna Shwedel	Franklin & Marshall College
Phillip Chu	Bentley College	Andrew Larocque	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Sergio Sian	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Ian Chuckran	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Caleb Larson	Boston College	Lily Silayeva	Brandeis University
Maggie Chun	Mount Holyoke College	Jennifer Lawrence	New York University	Erin Silva	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Alexander Chung	University of Southern California	Dzu Le	Carnegie Mellon University	Leah Skahen	Middlebury College
Ford Chung	Suffolk University	Trang Le	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Andrew Slotnick	Boston University
Elizabeth Cleary	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Laura Le	University of Redlands	Alejandro Smith	Northeastern University
Joan Clifford	Franklin Pierce College	Theresa Leach	Boston University	Daniel Smith	Columbia University
Eliot Cohen	Northeastern University	Cindy Lee	Catholic University of America	Kathleen Solage	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Jazmine Coleman	Hamilton College	Darline Lefevre	University of Pennsylvania	Hai Son	Tufts University
Lauren Coll	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Melanie Leung	Bunker Hill Community College	Joshua Speicher	Dartmouth College
Kathleen Coridon	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Sueann Leung	Boston University	Victoria St. Fleur	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Leah Cornish	Manhattan College	Nate Leverone	Mount Holyoke College	Kendra Stacy	University of New Hampshire
Mariel Courtney	Sacred Heart University	Jing Li	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	Emily Stapleton	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Christopher Cousins	Boston College	Sharon Li	University of Southern California	Caroline Sullivan	Boston University
Molly Coyne	New York University	Ye Li	Parsons School of Design	Erin Sullivan	Amherst College
Jaison Cramer	Boston College	Yuanjian Li	Boston University	Khaatim Sultan	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Kellye Crittenden	Pennsylvania State College-Altoona	Anna Liao	Harvard College	Aaron Sunstein	University of Iowa
Stephen Curley	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Eric Liao	Brandeis University	Eric Sutton	Bunker Hill Community College
James Daly	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Qingni Lin	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Khizer Syed	Boston University
Elena Damaskos	Harvard College	Wilson Lin	Harvard College	Cornelius Taabazuing	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Maxwell Dandridge	George Washington University	Timothy Linehan	Northeastern University	Marc Tangvik	Union College
Alexandra del Solar	Wellesley College	Michael Lipuma	Merrimack College	Danielle Tenen	McGill University
Theodore Deligianides	Boston University	Bruce Liu	Ithaca College	Angelina Terechtchenko	Undecided
Catherine DeMore	Boston University	Jin Bin Liu	Boston College	Briana Thevenin	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Kepley DePalma	Fairfield University	Luke Liu	Harvard College	Cidney Thomas	Temple University
David Dicenso	Framingham State College	Wen Lo	Columbia University	Monique Thomas	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Nicholas DiStefano	Suffolk University	Jenny Lum	Bentley College	Kelly Ann Thompson	Emmanuel College
Patrick Dixon	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Jim Luo	Bryn Mawr College	Lindsay Thornquist	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Carmen Dongo	American International College	Tiffany Luo	Boston College	Megan Tompkins	Boston College
Mario Dongo	Culinary Institute of America	Wendy Luo	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	David Toro	Emerson College
William Doogan	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Berlinda Luong	Babson College	Hai Tran	Tufts University
Ryan Dority	Norwich University	Kyquan Ly	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Joanne Tran	Loyola Marymount University
Chanelle Dow	Temple University	Justine Lynch	Hampshire College	Johnson Tran	Boston University
Yifei Duan	New York University	Peter Lyons	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Tuan Truong	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Mark Duhaime	Boston College	Mary MacDonald	North Carolina State College	Arkadiusz Turolski	Tufts University
John Duwors	Clark University	Jacqueline MacDougall	Boston University	Junior Uditnarain	Rochester Institute of Technology
Rori Edwards	Catholic University of America	Rosalie Malsberger	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Nicole Uhrig	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Christopher English	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Charles Maneikis	Grinnell College	Mohamed Vandi	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Jill Epstein	Fairfield University	David Mann	Stonehill College	Jenna Vardensky	Merrimack College
Matthew Fabian	Trinity College	Jade Martell	Washington & Lee University	Mahmut Varli	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Maria Farias	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Sean Martin	Merrimack College	Tiffany Vazquez	Regis College
Matthew Farley	Assumption College	Liam McCabe	Boston College	Christine Vong	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Adam Feeney	Arizona State University	Ellen McDonough	Syracuse University	Michael Voong	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Kaitlin Feeney	Boston College	Jacquelyn McDonough	Harvard College	Nga Vu	Boston University
Courtney Ferguson	Boston College	Lindy McGrail	Fairfield University	Felicia Waldron	Stonehill College
Tamkinat Firoz	New York University	Jason Mei	Fairfield University	Matthew Walsh	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
Simon Fischer	Bryn Mawr College	Isaac Meister	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Bingqing Wang	Tufts University
Tierney Flaherty	University of Vermont	Nicholas Michel	Harvard College	Hannah Weinstein	Carleton College
Andrew Flink	Barnard College	Michael Mitchell	Wheaton College	Stewart Wing	Loyola University-New Orleans
Huiyi Fok	Franklin & Marshall College	Ayesha Mohammed	Catholic University of America	Debbie Wong	Boston College
Ying Ying Fok	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Elizabeth Moniz	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Kimberly Wong	Emerson College
Ashton Foley	Harvard College	Francesca Morency	Boston University	Theresa Wong	Boston University
Catherine Foley	Stonehill College	Jeffrey Morrison	Cornell University	Vanessa Wong	Boston University
Emily Foley	Boston University	Leigh Mott	McGill University	Carrie Wu	Wellesley College
Marie-Ana Follett	University of Michigan	Andrew Moyer	University of Vermont	Jie Wu	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Louis Frank	Pomona College	Gordon Mui	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Patrick Wu	Harvard College
Jamie Fu	New York University	Madeline Mylett	Boston College	Tracy Wu	Bentley College
Rebecca Fuda	Bentley College	Audrey Nagle	Boston College	Yang Yang	Curry College
Gregory Galante	Boston University	Christine Nasir	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Bo Ye	Rochester Institute of Technology
Aimee Galindo	Salve Regina University	Sally Ng	Northeastern University	Winette Yee	Bentley College
Matthew Gallagher	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Huan Ngo	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Evan Yu	Boston College
Melissa Gallagher	Bridgton Academy	Anh Nguyen	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Jeannie Yu	Pratt Institute
Aaron Gardony	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Hieu Ngoc Nguyen	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	Emily Yuan	Harvard College
Reginald Gaston	Tufts University	Hieu Trung Nguyen	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Michelle Zawaski	Salem State College
Joseph Gels	St. Joseph's College	Hoa Nguyen	Boston University	Xiumin Zeng	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Derek Gillis	Boston University	Jimmy Nguyen	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Aileen Zhen	Brandeis University
Melissa Gilmore	Providence College	Khanh Nguyen	Boston University	Bobby Zheng	Boston University
Wintana Girma	Stonehill College	Khoa Nguyen	Boston University	Leon Zheng	Carnegie Mellon University
Matthew Gittens	Franklin Pierce College	Tuyet Nguyen	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Ying Zheng	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Christine Glandorf	Catholic University of America	Lisa Noris	University of California-Los Angeles	Dandan Zhu	Babson College
Lee Glandorf	Yale University	Claudia Norvilus	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	William Zolla	Northeastern University
Caitlyn Glynn	Yale University		University of Massachusetts-Amherst		
Elizabeth Good	Boston College		Providence College		

The one, the only, the famous...

Class of 2005 Senior Survey

Best Memories

Supra's party
good times with friends
walking into the Black Box, seeing Mike Guerra
getting dragged around by his feet, and thinking "Improv is the place for me"
Attaboy
the nights at the Arbs
bomb threat at the Annex
day the pipe broke
morning good Johnson Mrs. Tolbert!
N/A — this school was awful
senior prom '04
hanging out with friends
Schoolmaster Smith and homeroom 134
textbook fights sixie year in Ms. Devin's class
field trip to NY in 7th grade
homewrecking
sixie softball
Dr. Cohee's childhood stories
post Canobie Lake
Johnson being out for a full term
wildin' out in Ms. Pagos's class
Khaatim wildin' out
chillin in the hallway with my wild classmates ... I love ya'!!!
Mr. Fernandez's physics class
Caves
ski trip
anything with Izzo
all the snow days in Winter 2005
eating pho and going home
music wing praefect post
not learning anyhting
weekend excursions
sink incident on Italy trip 2004
hat study parties
snow week/ January vacation
chillin with the SF chain gang
Dr. Karydas' class in 11th grade
Music Nights and Holiday Concerts

Ms. Moran's breakfast parties
goofing off in Mr. Veiga's geometry class parties
cheerleading
Italy in 10th grade with Mr. Regan
the Sox game sixie year
Reckless, Dimly Perceived Threats to the System
Art class R5
Amazing
when Johnson was out for a few months
France with Ms. Brun
Chrissy on codeline

Argo final friday
semi '04
junior prom '04
playing Nintendo in computer class
chilling in Chem class with Izzo
UDP
Southie
D.P. USA's
homeroom with Khaa
Khaaa
table hockey at lunch
Basketball team
skipping studies
Karski dropping his pants at semi
New Year's '05
bus rides to practice and meets

the last days of school
prom dress shopping
Schawbel during studies
getting out of here
9th grade bio with Kelly Lydon
Jamie O'Brian
January Break
Red Sox winning the World Series!
Smuggler's Notch '05
Daphne's MJ performance in chorus
9th grade
skip days in the yellow room
beating up K. Boggy on the 35
meeting my other half and future
the Annex
rolling down hills

Top 5 Best Memories

1. The Cave (19)
2. The day the pipe broke in the new wing (17)
3. Smuggler's Notch '05 (16)
4. Eastern Europe '05 (13)
5. Bahamas '05 (12)

Worst Memories

getting back calc tests
the first day of school
being accepted into this school in 7th grade
Geometry class
waking up for six years
Ms. Ponte's Spanish class
summer school 2003
the cockroach
my first declamation
Ms. Johnson's class
11-Sep-01
taking the 36 charter bus
homeroom with Ms. McCarthy
Stacy
declamation
stressing about 5 projects, 2 finals and homework
piled on top
the same thing...
the past six years
late nights finishing homework and projects
Ms. Johnson's class
every day in Mr. Luis's class
deaths in the 2004-2005 school year
sitting on coffee
Greek Tradition with Ms. Pagos
Mr. Pitts
pooping in the bathrooms
coming home after Cherry Hill
all those wee hours of tardy detention for being less than 5 minutes late
Muffin Top
the death of Mr. Grant
school
falling down the bleachers during the National Anthem
Mrs. Johnson's class
all of 9th, 10th and most of 11th grade
the smell from 8th grade
8th grade art with Mr. Stone
homeroom

Mr. Grant's death
my first C+
not trying
Ms. Russo
being locked in the school bathroom
sitting down on the beach after Jr. prom
passing out in French class in 8th grade
not getting Approbation
31-Mar-05
Ms. Shannon and Ms. Ponte's Spanish classes
being in Mrs. Shannon's class
running from the cops every weekend

Westie
putting up with Ms. Montes all year for Physics
busy work
Lenny Lapon's class
Geometry with Mr. Wetherby
all the drama
pulling an all-nighter to do the Johnson notebook
the Gnome Sex
learning Latin
all-nighters
not getting into NHS (four times!)
all the deaths
recitation points in Mr. Haritos's class
TACA!

Top 5 Worst Memories

1. Run-ins with the administration (11)
2. Declamations (8)
3. 11th grade English (7)
4. All things bathroom (6)
5. Failing classes (5)

Ms. Kelley
sixie cluster B
first declamation
lectures in US History class
going home without eating Pho'
I have no memory.
Economics class
too many
Ms. Devin's funeral
seeing Ms. Johnson throw up all over herself
summer school in 2002
September 11th
drama with Rebecca
finding a parking spot in the morning in the Fens
taking AP US History

Things I Wish I'd Done

swam in the 4th floor swimming pool
been more confident and outgoing
slept in class
participated in more school activities
taken more APs!
taken Greek Tradition
breakfast, sleeping and a long-term relationship
learned to twist a Dutch
homework
made Approbation with Distinction
gotten Approbation at least once
burned all the books in that damned useless multi-million dollar library
gotten a date or a kiss
gotten Approbation with Distinction
screamed
taken more science classes
actually tried at school
hung out with friends more often
written senior class reminders
AP Spanish
skipped classes
worked harder
played a sport
slept more
done more academics
actually tried
cut more
worked more to improve the school
gotten to know more people
joined Step Squad
gotten more A's
really learned Latin
my senior paper
played Tiger Woods more (? —Eds.)
saved money
relaxed and had more fun
had a game of Assassins senior year
dressed up for Halloween
been more social
failed World History in 9th grade
gotten to know my guy friends earlier
actually tried

applied to other colleges
used all my absent days up
gone up the roof
put formulas in my calculator
gone to class less
gone to more BLS sports games
gotten to know more people
met a girl with a good sense of humor aka laughs at my jokes!!!
joined a sports team
taken art senior year
hot peppers

less work
been more amped!
played a sport
slept
taken more art classes
gone to Eastern Europe
skipped school more often
hooked up with more guys
Writing and English AP
learned to dance
went to Montreal
transferred out of Mrs. Johnson's English class
gone to a different high school
skipped classes when I had four studies a day

partied more
left early more
taken an instrument class
kissed more ass
Wintana
talked to more people and studied harder
varsity sport
cut more classes
cut class
take music lessons
lived at the HMSC
take more pictures
not been afraid and danced down the halls like I always dreamed I would
the Cave
joined a music group

Top 5 Things We Wish We Did

1. Tried out for a sports team (14)
2. Slept more (11)
3. Made more friends (10)
4. Actually *tried* (9)
5. Cut [more] class (6)

Things I Wish I *Hadn't* Done

Mr. Bond's "Invisible Heart" paper
NO REGRETS
tried so hard in the 7th and 8th grade
dated the boys in our grade
Ward Fellowship
got to the meat at Old's party
taken statistics and AP economics
gamble
tried out for Step Squad
go to this school
spent New Year's Eve on the floor
complained so much
taken Chemistry AP with Shluzas
procrastinated
smuggled in the bug
gotten bitten by a radioactive spider and used my supernatural spidey powers to take over the world (too much responsibility)
smuggled in the bug
stats
procrasinate
gotten caught cheating
signed up for physics
waioited to do college applications during Christmas vacation
taken Chemistry
Ap Stats
failed geometry in tenth grade
Worked
stayed in AP English
taken French class
taken Bond's AP Economics
lost my memory and common sense
taken Latin AP Verigl
Work...oh, wait, I didn't do any
pretended to understand Latin
taken Calculus Senior year
come to school so often
going insane over little things
done things that caused rumors -waited so long to five in to peer pressure been so scared of getting into trouble

AP US History with Ms. Kirkpatrick
taken French
skipped school and slacked off in the 9th and 10th grade
talked to Ashley
Ms. Ponte's final product
fallen out of the back of Jay's car on Morissey Boulevard
taken Green Tradition
Puppy (Deja Vu?)
taken AP Economics with Mr. Bonds
forgotten my lunch at home

let people intimidate me
lost my mind
Louis
died, that kind of sucked
work, in general
been an ass to people
Whatever that means...
got caught naked in my girlfriend's closet by her parents
been so lazy
given up so easily
cared so much about NHS
taken AP Bio
come to school...
got caught drinking in school
gossiped

Top 5 Things We Wish We Didn't Do

1. Procrastinated (12)
2. Worked so much (10)
3. Taken French (8)
4. Failed things/Taken Greek or Greek Tradition (6)
5. N/A: no regrets (5)

SAT Saturday classes at 9 AM
been so quiet for years
procrastinate
Taken Greek
taken humanities
wasted so much time in class
SAT classes at BLS
eaten school lunch
tried out for cheerleading
taken French
procrastinated
procrastinated
homework
loan people pens and pencils
left "him" behind
done so little

Most Useful Things Learned

how to sleep with my eyes open
how to BS a 10-page paper
arts and crafts
how to pee in a urinal
how to BS a paper and get an A
Fac, vaca, lac [sic]
beatboxing
Latin, having the ability to learn without being taught
how to hide coffee from Mr. Barry in homeroom
BSing '2 minute' English papers
Mr. Isaacs's legal advice
Calculus
how to look like you are paying attention
economics
the Alligator song
how to function under pressure situations
to smile
do as you oughta and add acid to water
I need more sleep
that the Honor Code is just a joke in this school
MAFIA!
How to deal with adversity
the Cave walk
people at BLS love authority
algebra
how to BS
improving time management when doing homework and projects
don't wait till the last minute to do everything
how to fake work
PEOPLE ARE FAKE!!
the best work is done in the last five minutes
how to multitask
how to cheat
how to build a crossbow for Mr. O
how to sneeze "properly" — via Haritos
organization is good
how to do all your homework in school

laugh when things are bad
Latin
Latin
how to BS any paper
how to BS
teachers don't know everything
do. not. plagiarize.
you can never get past the librarians
declamation
Algebra I and II
how to BS
how to get to the roof

Marijuana is wonderful
how to prioritize
when D-Day is
electrical circuits
Do it now from Mr. Akeson
don't trust anyone, including yourself
how to not get caught cutting class
how to BS
how to write a paper and have no idea what I'm talking about
the people in charge are always morons
you must cheat to survive—being honest gets you screwed

how to pee in a urinal
how to anal everything
how to get by doing the least amount of work
cramming does work!
how to use Microsoft Powerpoint
how to do work without working hard
thank you is two words
that homework doesn't have to be done at home
how to survive BLS
Beer before liquor, never been sicker
How to tie my shoes two ways
how to BS
If you've done that, you are most certainly not a virgin.
how to manage time

Top 5 Useful Things Learned

1. BSing papers, etc. (31)
2. Cheating (12)
3. Sleep techniques (11)
4. Time management (7)
5. Working under pressure (5)

Most Useless Things Learned

A-AE-AE-AM-A-AE-ARUM-IS-AS-IS
Ancient Greek
soh-cah-toa
Latin ... all six years!
Latin
Vergil and his Vergil ways
how to play "mafia"
limits
LATIN
all that physics stuff -- except for electricity
Precalculus and Physics
Dario Fo
pre calc
chemistry
how to find the volume of an area rotated around the x-axis
anything in Centeio's Stats class!
Latin
teachers pick favorites and make up their grades
Latin
the tiny fragments of chemistry my brain managed to absorb
the plot of FLCL
lim f(x)
everything having to do with Centeio
chi-squared
Latin, Spanish, English, History, etc.
pagovian tax
Anthony's middle name is Salvatore
Latin
every barista's name at Starbucks
the latin word for hostage is not sausage
How to write a heading for Mrs. Tolbert Johnson's class
success takes purpose, planning, practice, and patience
everything I forgot
science projects
possibly Greek
geometric proofs
it begins with L-A-T-I

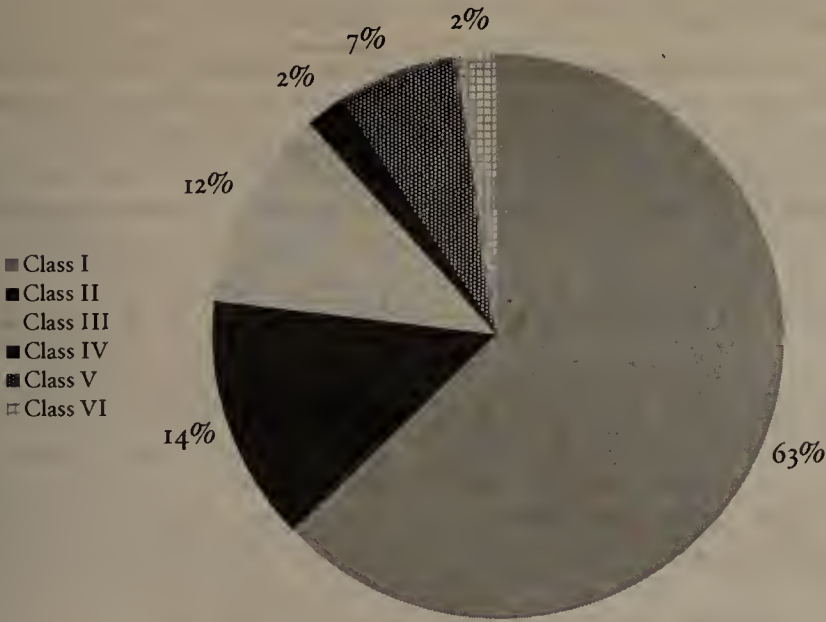
everything taught in this building
everything
history
that Adam Feeney lives in a graveyard
future perfect passive subjunctive
anything in precalc with Ms. Wilson
statistics
when to use a semicolon
Greek Tradition?
not statistics (because Centeio didn't know it)
chemistry 2
BLS honor codeatin

Top 5 Useless Things Learned

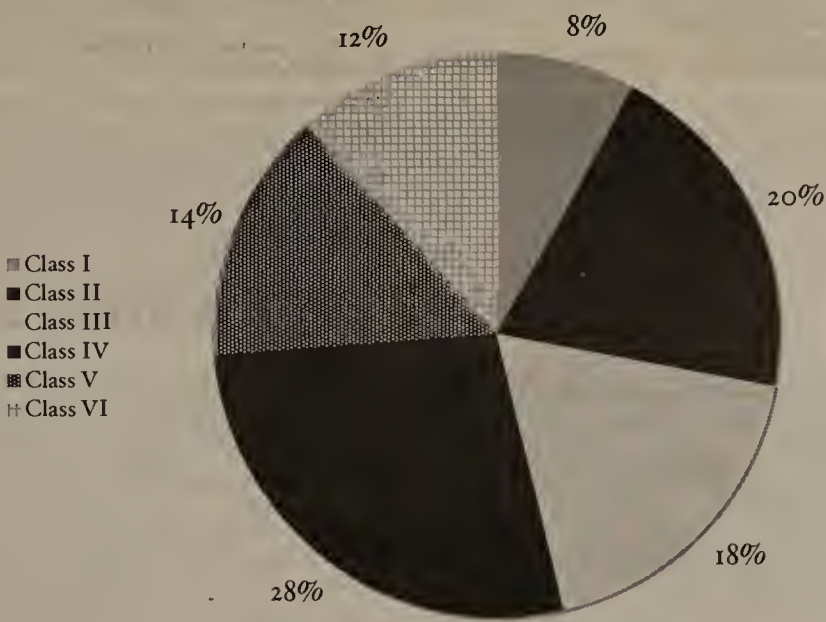
1. Latin (24+)
2. Everything (11)
3. Calculus (8)
4. French (7)
5. Greek/Greek Tradition (6)

how to smoke someone
what a dactyl/trochee/spondee is
proofs and theorems
French
French
independence
Latin
Comprehensive Chinese
Latin
Sandra Chen is a man
the definition of the word queef
falling asleep in class
I can remember nothing useless
Fac Vaca lac
Calculus
everything in Humanities (wait, that means nothing)
Cicero
What is humanities?
stats
everything except electrical circuits
how to get caught cutting class
pre calc
poetry
how to claw
scansion
null-hypothesis
Italian
Mrs. Tolbert Johnson's homework heading
Chinese Comp and Humanities
Greek

Favorite Year



Least Favorite Year



And in ten years I'll be...

driving a BMW 745 in Miami
27, looking for a wife, done with PhD., teaching
living in a van down by the river
graduating from BLS ... finally!
able to live down the embarrassment
on a flying trapeze in Mexico
homeless, if I'm lucky
married with kids
your boss
driving a Volvo somewhere
solid
a doctor...married to an NBA player
on the Appalachian trail, lost
working in a pharmacy
amazing
28! Hahaha ... hopefully out of grad school and working as a clinical psychologist
unemployed
owning my own business
shielding my face from the paparazzi
in the "real world"
making this school look so ill...
editor of Vogue, living next door to Christine
watching "Star Wars" in 3-D in theatres
still at the rink
in therapy, trying to undo the damage BLS did
a pharmacist
a fat rich investment banker with 10 kids
married with three kids in a really white neighborhood
still wondering how the hell I ever made it
famous and the new owner of Guess!
a fashion designer

still in Southie!
rich and successful
Out!
Happily married
working...on the corner
somewhere
well-traveled and young, with no routine
married with six kids
rich
married, making tons of money, having a good job, living in LA
finishing my doctorate, married, starting on my 8 kids
eating dessert as usual
Ms. Freeman
10 years older
working
an even bigger pothead
a doctor doing residency
27
on top of the food chain
mountain biking with a chick
fighting off hordes of beautiful women
dead from my liver problems or married to Dan Anderson
on the Block! Chillen in the Room!
not in the city, probably married with maybe a kid, happy, hopefully a sport psychologist, coaching a hockey team
considered armed and extremely dangerous
falling down stairs and then passed out on the floor
successful

poor and lonely
drunk and disorderly
in the NFL going to the Pro Bowl after just winning to MVP in the Super Bowl
at IHOP
in school and in debt
poor and trying to pay off student loans
still paying off college loans
working as an intern for Dave Letterman, i.e. getting coffee
playing keyboards for Blue Lemonade in its second U.S. tour
famous
an engineer who will have invented something that you'll be using
traveling around the world
ruling this planet with an iron fist
biggest sports agent in America
who knows
a writer and a public voice
trying to remember what I was doing 10 years ago
celebrating the ten year anniversary of answering this question
laughing down at all of you
wishing I was still in high school
a hobo
Attaboy World Tour 2015 or just teaching English
still the only organist you know
sailing around the caribbean
alive
coming to a ten year reunion
severely struggling somewhere not in Boston
In Italy

Our Favorite Teachers

1. Dr. Neary (20)
2. Mr. Izzo (18)
3. Ms. Freeman (13)
4. Ms. Moran (9)
5. Ms. Holm, Dr. Lambert, & Ms. O'Malley (8)

SENIOR SECTION

Class Officers Sign Off

Vice President: Stephen Armandt



BY STEPHEN ARMANDT, I
VICE PRESIDENT, CLASS OF 2005

The end of another year: the freshmen think graduation is way too far away and the seniors...think graduation is way too far away. That's sort of how it is when you end high school. While you're there, you think that if you could not step one foot into this place again, you would be as happy as possible. Then you get that chance and you almost wish you could start to hate the school again; but you can't. Granted you don't wish for final papers due the next day (which you've yet to start of course) but there's still something about knowing that a person (even a teacher) cares whether or not you do it.

School is something that gives a bit of order to life and I think most seniors feel that although they now have all the freedom in the world they're somewhat bored. It'd be

tough to tell anyone in school right now to enjoy it because you don't really find many people who enjoy spending seven hours of their day inside during the summer. I'm sure there are seniors who think it absolutely ludicrous when I say that they, and myself, miss school. But they're wrong. It doesn't really matter if you hate school or love school, the point is that it shapes you into something. Even if you absolutely hate it, it still gives you something to fight against that is always there. If it's something that you love (much rarer by far) then it gives you something stable and constant that you can go to every day, and then finally you have to tear yourself away after your 6th year. So, I guess it's kind of like a marriage. You fight, you yell, you make up, you live in a routine, there's ups, there's downs except with school we all know it's going to end. Maybe more like a rent-a-spouse then. But still, it's something that you belong to and it shapes you. So even if you love it or hate it at first, you end up realizing it always meant something much deeper to you than you ever thought.

If there were any advice I'd give to the students below me I'd say you just have to make sure that you try, really try. School can be pretty easy to get by. But if all you really do sit down and attempt every assignment, during every class you'll not only find that you like school a lot more, but that you actually attain the "chill" you used to want so bad when you worked for just enough to get by. Well, there's my farewell, it made sense in my mind. And to the seniors, we have to forget the meaning of our old sports slogan and take on a different meaning for the words-Go Pack...for college.

Secretary: Francesca Morency



BY FRANCESCA MORENCY, I
SECRETARY, CLASS OF 2005

We finally made it! Some of us through 4, some of us through 6, and some of us through 7 years. We can call it a lot of things, but most of have to admit that it was like a second home. Coming in as a B-sie, I never expected to feel so comfortable here and I never expected to leave loving so many people. Like all of you I had difficult years at Latin, and then I had incredible ones. My favorite year was my senior year and I owe that mostly to you guys. You elected me as secretary, you voted me as BLS Idol, and you named me "most likely to be famous", and for these things I am eternally grateful. Like the Beatles' song that the Wolfettes sang my sophomore year, there are things that I will remember "all my life."

Some of my fondest memories hap-

pened right in homeroom 134! I love you all so much, homeroom 134, because you helped me start my day with laughter every morning. Varsity Basketball Boys...you guys are hilarious and so entertaining! Schoolmaster Smith, you are the coolest homeroom teacher ever. Class of 2005, the one thing that I regret is not meeting and getting to know so many of you until this last year. It's hard to believe how close many of us have become in a matter of months.

In addition to all the students making my year so wonderful, I have to give a shout out to the faculty who made this year run so smoothly for me — Mr. Bunker, Ms. Hauck, Mr. Barry, Ms. Wood, Ms. Pagos, Ms. Freeman, Mrs. & Ms. Malone, Mrs. Mahoney, Mr. Gio, Mr. Keitt, and Mr. Charig. And I have to give an extra special shout out to Mr. Montague and Ms. Sylvester for keeping me sane when things got a little rough for me. Another great memory is going to the Schwabel Center with my study hall buddies and working in the main office with Edward. Wolfettes and Show Choir members...I love you and will miss you so much. To my girls (Michelle J., Ellen M., and Monique O.), we all had our days but stayed true to one another.

To the class of 2005, congratulations and good luck with wherever life takes you. I truly believe that graduating from this school is like joining a secret society that no one understands unless they have lived it. We have lived it and we are now like one big family. I love you all, will always remember you, and can't wait to see you at the reunions!

Treasurer: Ethiopia Al-Mahdi



BY ETHIOPIAH AL-MAHDI, I
TREASURER, CLASS OF 2005

For me, farewells can so often feel pretentious. The select few who are given the privilege of writing them will most likely infuse them with a series of clichés that include a nostalgic anecdote, one or two insightful proverbial statements, a few shout outs, and the ever so heartfelt goodbyes, good lucks and good riddance. While I would like to go against the grain and write something profoundly original and witty, Isaac and Frankie have been on my butt for this article for the past week, and this paragraph alone has taken me about an hour to write. So seniors and Latin School students alike, prepare for what can quite possibly be the most formulaic and clichéd farewell ever written.

It's hard for me to believe that

only six years has passed since my first day of classes: I have begun to experience hot flashes, my hair has fallen out, my hips have widened, I listen to a lot of Jackie Wilson and I only eat cream of wheat. I could have sworn it's been longer. However kidding aside, I can honestly say that I have spent the last third of my life with people I enjoy and respect. I have never been with a more tightly knit and genuinely kind group of people. As a particular Humanities class would say, diversity is fate. Though our class may be the first class to graduate the Latin School without the mandated quota, we walk across that stage as a cohesive and vibrant miscellany of culture, style and talent.

As many of you are aware, my tenure at Latin School has had its difficulties. My mother's death in 2001 in particular was an event that disrupted my life immensely, causing me to contemplate my continuation at the Latin School. I credit this school, my teachers, the members of the Class of 2005, and Ms. Kelley for restoring my faith, my comfort and my ability to develop my skills and succeed. It is especially because of this that I am eternally grateful and indebted to this graduating class.

The greatest lesson that I have ever learned at Latin School is incidentally the greatest lesson that Oprah has ever learned, taught to her by the legendary Maya Angelou. (And yes, this is a foreshadowing that I am the next Oprah) "When people show you who they are, believe them, the first time.

Live your life from truth and you will survive everything, even death. You will survive everything if you can live your life from the point of view of truth." Each of you has showed me who you are, and there is something undeniably beautiful about every one of you. You possess confidence, dignity and sincerity that affirm your greatness. As I pass each of you in the halls, in the dining hall, or in a class that I may have with you, I am reminded of how much you have influenced me, and I have found myself through each of you.

To the Young Leaders of Color, continue to do great things by any means necessary! To my closest friends, you know who you are, stay true, stay beautiful, and stay in touch! To each of my teachers, I can never repay you for the knowledge that you have bestowed upon me, so I will do my best to share what I have learned from you with as many people as possible. To Ms. Kelley, I thank you. There has always been a majestic quality about your presence. Whether it is the tennis shoes, the Frugal Fannie's coat or that deep purple shawl you wear during bus duty, your leadership, discipline and kindness have made you an exceptional headmaster. I am proud to have spent all six of my years here under your reign.

While I am sure that to many of you, I will forever be the crazy short black power raving, Michael Jackson singing/defending, weave wearing, de-claiming misspelled African Country, I can only hope that I made as great of

an impression on your life as each of you have made on mine. Before I sign off, I would like to leave each of you with a quote from perhaps the greatest philosopher, entertainer and artist to have ever moonwalked across the face of this earth:

*One day in your life
You'll remember the love you found
here
You'll remember me somehow
Though you don't need me now
I will stay in your heart
And when things fall apart
You'll remember one day.*

-Michael Jackson

Thank you! Goodbye, good luck, and good riddance.

Unfortunately, due to timing constraints, the president of the Class of 2005, Nathan Allukian, was unable to submit a senior farewell to the Argo. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Class Committee Chairperson: Christine Baker



BY CHRISTINE BAKER, I
CLASS COMMITTEE CHAIR, CLASS OF 2005

Date: Mon, 30 May 2005 19:47:06 -0700 (EST)

From: "Christine Baker"

Subject: Senior Farewell

To: "Senior Class"

To Whom This May Concern,

Since I have been e-mailing my fellow classmates with reminders throughout the school year, I thought it would be fitting to write my farewell for the Argo in the same format. As usual, I have nothing new to say—how can I have anything profound to say as a graduating senior? I'm not going to do the typical Latin-thing and B.S. this article with proverbs and other fancy delights.

Instead, I'm going to write what I know.

The only thing I know is that if I don't write some thank yous or give some "shout outs," I will be in the doghouse.

Mr. Izzo and Ms. Freeman:

Thank you for taking me beyond the classroom into foreign territories, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Germany, Poland, and Czech Republic. I will never forget those unique experiences. I wish there were more teachers as amazing and caring as you. If you ever need another chaperone, call me!

Masters and Headmasters:

There are so many of you that molded my education inside and outside the classroom. Thank you for giving me knowledge and life lessons.

Homeroom 101 and Dr. James:

Thank you for being the greatest homeroom ever! It was a pleasure to spend every morning with you for two years. Keep poetry in your lives and keep in touch.

Class Officers and Senior Class Committee:

I know I can be overbearing at times, especially with the relentless e-mailing and Tuesday meetings. Sorry! But you were all so dedicated and wonderful. The Class of 2005 wouldn't have made it to graduation without your efforts. For this reason and many others, you deserve countless thanks!

Costa Rica Crew:

You guys are my closest friends. Thanks for playing doctor in Costa Rica, for countless laughs about nothing, for letting me cry, for letting me rant, and for understanding. No matter how far away you move—California, Vermont, or Boston—I am always here for

you. I love you all!

To the Baker Clan:

I can't even begin to give you a suitable thank you. I would have never made it here without your love, guidance, and yes, a little "carrot-dangling." Mom and Dad, no matter where I go I will always carry with me the values and the love you taught me. I know it's typical for parents to be proud of their son/daughter at graduation. But I am very proud of you. You are incredible people and I love you. And John, thank you for being you. I am so glad that I have a big brother that is so honest, intelligent, and fashionably dressed. There are millions on top of billions of people in the world, but you are the one person I look up to the most. I love you.

To the Class of 2005:

Congratulations!! We made it! Good luck to you and I will see you all at our five-year reunion.

Christine Baker

Senior Class Committee Chairman

Notes from the Valedictorian



BY YUANJIAN LI, I
VALEDICTORIAN, CLASS OF 2005

I stare at the page. The page stares back at me. Somehow, the white expanse on the computer screen curves into a sneer. It is 11:30 p.m. on the day after early release. Yet it still feels like a school night, because I am in front of my computer, working on a 750-word paper—the paper you are reading now. I should be a) hanging out with my friends; b) packing for my trip tomorrow; c) dreaming about...things

^_^; d) Iming; e) none of the above, but not writing a paper. And, as my dear junior friends like to remind me, in revenge for the "point and laugh" gesture I do to the poor toiling souls so often (it's habit forming, especially when you enjoyed the snow days and they are in school till July), I am such a loser senior because I am still working. I should be drinking and partying, but I assure you that none of us ever listen to the juniors, Ms. Kelley.

One warning for future seniors: I know you tell yourselves that you won't be the losers to come back to school after early release—and trust me we have all sworn to it on our family grave—but you WILL. The keen-eyed underclassmen have spotted no less than 10 supposedly freed seniors in the alleys of BLS on May 30. I guess the school is like the Puritan village described in the "Scarlet Letter." There is a feeling so irresistible and inevitable, which compels human beings to linger around and haunt the spot where some great event has given the color to their lifetime; and still the more irresist-

ibly, the darker the tinge that saddens it. Granted, BLS did not color us with that sad a tinge (except for the very lasting dark color under our eyes), but all of us wanted to leave and forget the place and start our lives anew in the great bar that is open 24-7 called college—though none of us will ever succeed.

But don't think that going back to school is like returning to the shackles of BLS. As my friend Norman and I realized when we returned to 78 Louis Pasteur on May 30th, you don't know what freedom means until you return to school after early release. You walk through the front door at 9:30 a.m. Just as that teacher is about to stop you and give you a lecture on why a BLS student like you should uphold the value of promptness, you flash her a smile, proudly hold up your school ID with "class of 2005" on it, and you are off. Take a leisurely stroll on the third floor. Beam at the floor masters as they glare at you. Point and laugh a few final times at your junior and sophomore friends and tell them to have fun for the next year or

two. My friend, you might not believe it but it is on that day that you will know exactly what the sweetness of freedom tastes like.

At last, in the BLS tradition, the old and wise one will give the young ones some tips. If you want to have a nice senioritis spring, finish your senior thesis during the dreary February vacation. Then you can laugh in April and bathe in the sun (or in the freezing rain, if you are unlucky like us) when everyone else is complaining about that English paper. I, unfortunately, was among those who whined. As for any other advice, didn't some wise man say something about falling and learning through your experience? Have fun falling and learning!

Finally, farewell BLS! I love you and I'll miss you! (Would the editor please put this in font 5? No?) I'll be back, and hopefully remain in BLS forever on the frieze in the auditorium, because even a lifetime of BLS is far from enough.

Notes from the Salutatorian

BY ISAAC MEISTER, I
SALUTATORIAN, CLASS OF 2005

I was thinking over graduation the other night in the midst of growling at people ineffectually at Argo, and I came to the conclusion that we've finished the dress rehearsal for the dress rehearsal for life that's supposed to be college. And from that point of view, we actually haven't accomplished terribly much. That notion, though, doesn't correlate at all with what went on in the senior corridor on early release day the cheering, the hugging, and the general sense of accomplishment. So really, after all of the tassels are on the right side, the caps have been thrown, the balloon animals been popped, where are we left?

The answer, I think, lies in the nebulous and invariably unsatisfying emotional middle ground that comes with moving from a Latin School to a post-Latin School existence. The ridiculousness of my thoughts in the thick of things the other night is now obvious to me: there really is no dress rehearsal for life, and the fact that I, and perhaps a respectable chunk of others at this school, think of Latin School as such is indicative that we haven't *lived* enough in the wilder sense of the word.

It's a very Latin School thing to be trained to look down at those who don't overburden themselves with work and commit themselves to getting into competitive colleges, and virtually everyone affords the competitive kids a generous respect.

My only regret leaving this school is that in the process of trying to get into good colleges and make approbation with distinction is that I haven't paid as much attention to the outstanding people I've gone to school with, to everything around me; then again, if the senior surveys are to be believed, many of us wish they had paid more attention to their schoolwork. Some of us have lived too little, others have lived too much; like Sebastian sang to Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, the seaweed is always greener in somebody else's lake. It's part of what can make this time so bittersweet.

Now for the obligatory cheesy advice part. This January, Dr. Cohee put an awful lot of stress on something Horace said in his *Satires*: that there is a happy medium in things, and there are certain boundaries outside of which what is right cannot stand. It sounds preachy, but it's true. To those of you aspiring to go to some prestigious college, that's fine, but please don't let it consume your life. The same advice goes to those who are bank-

ing, perhaps rightly, on the power of the Latin School name and the quality of our coursework to get into college. Spending too much time at either extreme will treat you to experiences those on the other can never know, but there will be a little part of you that never quite comes alive. And you never understand the price of that until you've made your choice and are dealing with the consequences.

Also, if senior year has taught me anything, it's that we don't get through Boston Latin School by ourselves. The toadies that are blind to our teachers' and administrators' faults and the muckrakers who decry our "culture of fear" and the "incompetence" of our teaching staff each miss the mark — the vast majority of them aren't good human beings. On that note, I want to thank Dr. Cohee for an amazing year of Latin, an amazing half-decade of JCL, and more patience and understanding than should be asked of a person; Mr. Akesson, for teaching me the meaning of work and revealing traditionalism's softer side; Dr. Neary, my *professeur soleil*; Ms. Skerritt, who taught me writing with a brain; Ms. Palmer, who taught me writing with a soul; Ms. Freeman, the best teacher I never technically had — and there are many more, many



more, who deserve mention and praise for their kindness. We may not believe it, but they are the invisible hands who help to nudge us towards success. (Juniors, just you wait until you go through the college process. You'll know what I mean.)

I could go on forever, but I don't want to waste people's time when I know for a fact there are better things in this paper worth reading. I know I'm going to miss you all, Class of 2005, because ours was four to six (or even seven) years of intimacy underlaid by understanding, ours was a baptism by fire, and that will be a badge that each of us will wear for the rest of our lives. Let's go out and try to do our school, ourselves, and our families proud.

SENIOR SECTION

*Argo Seniors Sign Off*Editor-in-Chief

It's finally here, the time so many of us have been waiting for eagerly. It has been six long and hard years. There have been ups and downs and through it all we made it! BLS is a place that makes you feel like graduating is truly an accomplishment. It makes you realize that you did not do it on your own. We all helped each other through these years in this building. None of us could have done this alone.

Argo has been such a big part of the BLS years. I remember the good old *Argo* days. Playing ping pong with Longjie. I remember when Celia was the Editor and even partying with Johnny B. I remember this year's rides home with Lisa and Ashlyn and the random trips to Some Old Place or Mr. Chan's. Anneke joined the Burt ride home party and Ying Ying left it. Bobby I, Ying Ying, Margaret and Bobby II, thanks for being the awesome layout people. Frankie, you finally joined the World of Warcraft party. Isaac, you have been a great co-editor. Ke, many fun times as my fellow Mac and PC user. Ed and Qingni, I miss you guys at *Argo*. A&E is not the same.

I'd like to thank all the people who made these years a little better. I may leave your name out but know that I am so grateful to you and there just wasn't enough room. Thanks to the friends I have had for so long. Katie, thank you. Andrew, you and I have been going to school together for 14 years. I think it's time to move on. Aaron Gardony, I've known you since eighth grade and I still find you are one of the people who can make me laugh. Carl, I just need to say A37, brainchild. I miss your old house and the movie days. Max, that was one of the best summers. We were both art students. Joe, I remember DARTS and somehow I couldn't avoid you. Thanks for being extremely random, always. Melissa, you are t3h roxor3 at bowling. Thanks, Laura, for always being there for me when I needed it. Andre, you left this school but thanks for being my nerdy compatriot. I'll miss all you kids who left: Rachel, Liz, Kelly and Tom. The jazz band kids, thanks for being awesome. Aaron and Radhika, I had to put your names together. Thanks for making my studies so much more enjoyable.

I will miss all the fun times, and I will be glad I made it through the rough times. *Argo*, I will miss you. I will come visit, I promise. And yes, this was done on Final Friday at 8:30. Procrastinator I remain. Fare thee well!

—Burt

News

People say I'm cynical, and, well, they are right. It's still tough for me not to be about this place, especially since the six years I've been here still seem to my young mind like forever. Of course there were great people and great moments. But as an institution, this place is little more than a name, its once-hallowed ideal of providing a humanities-based education to deserving Boston boys grounded in an in-depth exposure to the classics a mere echo from the past.

We've all rested on our laurels—and a mighty pile of them too—way too long. Especially this paper. The *Argo* has left behind a miraculously consistent record of refusing to question the administration. By stifling dissent, relegating controversial articles to inner pages and softening language to a mere shell of the original, the *Argo* has helped to fuel the complacency of the student body on

issues of their own education and to maintain the culture of fear so ingrained at Latin. I learned first about the *Argo* way back in ninth grade, when the article I wrote about the elimination of English honors was pared of all relevant content before publication. I tried to publish my own paper in 10th grade, *Plebeians Speak*, but I burned out before we could produce a second issue. It was too much work for too few of us. So last year I accepted an invitation to “join the enemy,” as it were. I've tried in the past year to hit more issues head on and to promote depth and sentiment in as much as a censored news section permits.

Personally, I've been lucky to have some huge supporters. At *Argo*, Burt and Isaac listened to me gripe and were patient voices of neutrality, for better, and sometimes, for worse. My 10th graders Julia, Rebecca and sometimes Katie, outgrew their minion roles and blossomed into awesome news folks in their own right. Ashlyn's optimistic spirit guided us through many a potential collision. Bora and Lisa were always awesome to be with. As for school folks, Ms. Arnold was always #1 in my heart and she knows it. Freeman and Insanally were #1 in intellectual awesomeness. In two Latin classes, Dr. Cohee never ceased to astonish me (in a good way). Finally, I can't resist using this forum to praise Steve Fernandez, who stuck through hell here to serve the students and fight for justice. (He was an awesome physics teacher too.)

Everyone says it, and they are right: friendships make Latin bearable. The school doesn't deserve us, I swear. So to Radhika, who among many other blessings knew I was a musician and loved me for it long before the school finally noticed. To Carl, for putting up with me all these years, always listening and being an awesomely kind and smart kid. To Hannah, I loved when we thought the same things together, and will appreciate more in the future the many times when we didn't. To Alex—I can't resist—although I've never really known you outside of school, in it you were the person who very often got me through day after day of drudgery. To the Wolftones, I loved every one of you even when I screamed, and we really did do ourselves proud in the end. To the Class of 2005—I loved us despite our idiosyncrasies (like how we didn't talk to each other). We are indeed a great, individualistic and spirited class. Hopefully those qualities will serve us well later in life. Whatever the case, for me the journey through here was pretty awesome.

—Aaron

Forum

Right now, the biggest thing on my mind is how much I've forgotten about elementary school. I think of those five years of my life and I'm sad about the fact that all I remember is a mess of general ideas, a few key events, and a couple of significant people. By the time you read this, the Class of 2005 will be gone and officially alumni; I'm afraid that in 10 years, all of this will have become the same kind of mess of random thoughts.

I think about this and I blame the fact that even though I'm 18, I really haven't started living yet. And which one of us students really has? You really can't live a life that isn't yours, and until that tassel is flipped on June 12, our lives will still not be ours. Think about it, after we seniors leave from here, we are more free to do anything than ever before. We will be able to choose how we'll live, where we'll live, where we'll



ARGO SENIOR STAFF FRONT ROW (L-R): BOBBY ZHENG, BORA PLAKU, WINNETTE YEE, EMILY YUAN, FRANKLIN HO; BACK ROW: YING YING FOK, ISAAC MEISTER, LEAH SKAHEN, AARON SUNSTEIN, BURT CARTER. NOT PICTURED: SAM AKIBA AND YUANJIAN LI

work, and if our desires demand it, pick up and change all of that on a whim.

I remember first being dragged into *Argo* by my sister in fivsie year. Nervous, tiny and completely clueless as to what to do, I operated with an attention span characteristic of a 12 year old. Amazingly, from that first time at production to junior year, I managed to both attend frequently and fail to do any substantial work at the same time. I wrote for a year and then promptly returned to doing nothing as Forum Editor.

My memories from working on this paper are ones that I hope to never forget. The few times I've heard “Forum turned out really well this issue” or “I really liked your article on so and so” have touched me more than you can know, and has made the countless hours I've spent on production (or rather, hours of being yelled at by Lisa, my co-editor) worth it.

So as we move on, I hope that we'll be able to take more chances and to throw ourselves blindly into situations without thinking of every little consequence. After all that is the best way to live. My greatest fear right now is to forget and to be forgotten. When we leave, this will never be the same again, we will never get to relive these moments nor wander the halls in the same manner. All we can do is to ingrain into our heads as many of the little details as we can. I'll do my part and try my hardest to keep all of this from becoming a meaningless mish-mash of memories and all I can ask is that you do the same.

—Franklin

Sports

After six arduous years here at Boston Latin, it is all coming to an end. Looking back, I can't help but have regrets, such as not being good enough to actually play for any of the sports I rooted for, not trying out for the one or two teams I might have been able to join, and not being at the FleetCenter when the hockey team won the State Championship. However, being a fan of our school sports (apparently not as much as Matt Farley), there are many lessons I have learned.

First off, making an effort to go to games and cheer on the various Latin teams is important. It means something to the students who are out there competing when they know their friends are in the stands rooting them on. Secondly, in the end it is pretty pointless to be critical of those teams who do not succeed. Let's be honest: we know that this school is not known for its athletic dominance, and saying negative things about others in the Latin community does not help and can bring unnecessary hostility. Thirdly, in most cases, even if there seems to be an abundance of talent on a particular team, most likely there is a private school out in Who-knows-where, Mass., that is just as good. Competing in

the DCL, Latin faces schools like Acton-Boxboro that seem to breed athletes. The basketball team, for which I rooted in vain, faced that harsh reality over and over again, but I thank the hockey team for removing that stereotype.

Sports aside, words cannot describe what this school has done for me. Those who are still in the midst of it must understand that only when you are able to look back on the whole thing do you gain an appreciation for your six years of service. Although not all of us get the best grades and go to Harvard, it is the work ethic, study habits and general knowledge that this school gives you that are priceless. I have suffered through teachers with whom I have clashed, and had teachers who have taught me lessons that go beyond the classroom. When you weigh it all out, that scale is heavily tipped in a student's advantage. The only thing I have to say to the teachers and the rest of the Boston Latin community is thank you for all the wonderful years.

—Sam

Copy Editing

For the past three years, I have looked on in envy as graduating senior editors wrote their farewells. And now, it's hard to believe that I have finally earned that privilege. As much as I'd like to believe that I got here all by myself, let's face it, I didn't. To my mom and dad: for the past 18 years, you've devoted your lives to mine; you've sacrificed so much for me. To the wonderful members of the faculty and administration who have given me so much help in my journey through Boston Latin School: Mr. Flynn, Dr. Yu, Mr. Akeson, Ms. Fulwider, Ms. Moran, Ms. Montes, Ms. Cousens, Mr. Montague and Ms. Kelley. You believed in me, inspired me, supported me and taught me so much along the way. Thank you.

To all the good friends I've made: you don't know how much you mean to me. Thank you for keeping me sane these four years, for always lending an eager ear to all my venting, for teaching me common sense (I know there's still so much I have yet to learn, but I've come a long way, don't you think?), for smacking me back to reality when the occasion rendered it appropriate, and finally, for loving me in spite of my little girly voice, my possession of too many pink things and the like. I love you guys.

For all those who still have many days left at the Latin School, remember to make wonderful memories. Always push yourself to do your best, but still have a good time. Also, don't think too much about doing something, just do it (disclaimer: I have no affiliations with Nike).

To all my fellow seniors: congratulations, we made it! I wish you the best of luck in wherever life may take you. Class of 2005, I will remember you.

—Emily



Taking Leave of a Friend

Blue mountains to the north of the walls,
White river winding about them;
Here we must make separation
And go out through a thousand miles of
dead grass.

Mind like a floating wide cloud,
Sunset like the parting of old acquaintances
Who bow over their clasped hands at a dis-
tance.
Our horses neigh to each others
as we are departing.

—Ezra Pound

Mike, Congratulations! Enjoy the journey. Write if you get work. XO—Mom & Dad.



<p>Congratulations, Matt!</p> <p>Best wishes from Mom and Dad</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS, KEPLEY</p> <p>LOVE, MOM, DAD, AND ALPHONSE</p>	<p>Congratulations, Rori!</p> <p>Love, Michael</p>
<p>To Samuel Akiba: Congratulations! We love you.</p>	<p>Congratulations, Rosie!</p> <p>Love, Mom and Dad</p>	
<p>Congratulations, Marie Ana — daughter and scholar.</p> <p>With love and best wishes, Mom, Dad, and Kids</p>		

SENIOR SECTION

**Mike, we're all so
proud of you.**

**Love Dad, Mom,
Matt, and Laura**

Congratulations, David,
and welcome to the 'Nestor-
Mann Latin School Alumni
Society':

*Nana '38 (GLS), Dad '70, Mom '70
(GLS), Kevin '01; Uncles Edward
'59, Walter '69, Tom '72, Paul '74;
Aunts Barbara '63 (GLS), Ginny '72
(GLS)*

Congratulations, Ellen,
on six great years.
Go BLS 2005!

We love you,
The McDonough-
Sinkiewicz family

Congratulations on your
graduation, Tim Linehan.
We're so very proud of you.
Best of wishes, the future is
yours.
Have lots of fun at Merrimack.

Love, Mom and Dad

**Congratulations, Billy Doogan,
and the rest of the Class of
2005!**

**Love Mom, Dad,
Meaghan and Jimmy**

SENIOR SECTION

<p>We are so proud of you, Marah</p> <p>Love, Mom & Dad</p>	<p>Par nuestra reina, Alexandra:</p> <p>¡Estamos tan orgullosos de ti!</p> <p>Besos y abrazos de Mamá, papá, Julián y Diana</p>	
<p>Congratulations, Marah!</p> <p>Love Neala and Terry</p>		
<p>Congratulations, Chris</p> <p>Love Dad, Mom, Emily, Caroline, and Sam</p>		
<p><i>Congratulations, Paige!</i></p> <p><i>Love from your family</i></p>	<p>Good luck Michelle! Love Mom, Dad, & P.J.</p>	<p>Congratulations, Phil and Greg.</p>
<p>Congratulations, Michael!</p> <p>We're so very proud of you!</p> <p>Love, Mom, Dad, Bernadette, and Gregory</p>		

It was the poet, T.S. Eliot who said:

“We shall not cease from our exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will to be arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.”

Go forth, Class of 2005, and make us proud

— Mr. Fulton

Congratulations, Catherine
Chan!!

We are very proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad, and
Caroline

Congratulations, Rebecca
Adams!
We're very proud of you.
Love, Mommy & Daddy

**Congratulations, Natalie —
We're proud of you and love you.
Have a great time at UMass Amherst.**

**Love, Mom, Dad, Zack, Jasmine, Nick,
Greg, and Jake**

Congratulations Room 201!
You were my second family and
I wish you all happiness and
remember to be brave and kind
always.

Much love, Ms. O'Malley

Congratulations E. Jay

*Love,
Mom & Dad*

*To Kevin: We know you'll be
a great teacher!!!
We're all proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, Shell, and
Steven*

Congratulations,
Dan
We are so proud of
you!

Molly:
Your BLS days are over;
Your NYU adventure is about
to begin.

Congratulations and tons of
love,
Dad, Mom, Meghan, Jake,
Jared, Bailey, and Abby

Sweet Music Is Made of This

BY YING WANG, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Boston Latin School, known for its richness in music and the arts, certainly lived up to its reputation at Music Night 2005, held on Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29. A music lover's dream, the two concert nights were jam-packed with performances featuring a variety of lively instruments, ranging from the human voice to the piccolo. From marching band songs to gospel harmonies, these enjoyable performances satisfied listeners and exposed them to new melodies that they may never have heard before.

After the Class VI Strings started Thursday night off with a big bang, the Junior Jazz Band followed with a most notable performance. Among the pieces they played were Mark Bruselli's "Detention Blues" and "A Night in Tunisia," composed by "Dizzy" Gillespie and Frank Pararelli. The latter piece was the more difficult, according to Mr. Ryan Snyder, conductor and head of the Junior Jazz Band. Despite the complexity of that particular piece, the instrumentalists pulled it off successfully, playing their parts with both talent and intensity. Among the other performances of the night, the Junior Band, in particular, wowed the crowd with John Whitwell's "Amazing Grace" and Robert W. Smith's "The Maelstrom." Conducted

by Mr. Pitts, the music was so entertaining that it had the entire audience tapping their feet to the beat.

With a special solo performance of Norah Jones's "Don't Know Why" by BLS Idol winner Francesca Morency (I), Friday's show followed in the footsteps of the previous night's concert, proving to be just as successful and delightful. The first performers of the night were the female a cappella group, the Wolfettes, who immediately launched into Annie Lennox's "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)." This song was followed by "Autumn Leaves," by Kosma, dedicated to the class of 2005, and "God Only Knows," a Beach Boys song. Next, the Honors Orchestra stepped up to the plate, playing Edvard Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1" with a combination of loud, tight and fast notes. The Senior Strings, performed "Articles N'Oreast," which included a recitation of the Robert Frost poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" intercut with the sound of soaring strings. The composer of the piece, Robert Bradshaw, also happened to be in the audience that night. The Concert Band and Big Band were also very interesting, with the Big Band choosing such upbeat pieces as Matt Harris' "Cabeza de Carne" and the Concert Band shining on stormy songs such as "Marche" by Serge Prokofiev. The three choirs of the night, Show Choir, Gospel Choir and Concert

Choir, also lived up to expectations. The Gospel Choir engaged the crowd with an uplifting rendition of "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High." The Concert Choir's a cappella of oldie songs such as Billy Joel's "And So it Goes" and the Beatles classic "Eleanor Rigby," along with the Show Choir's enthusiastic interpretation of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" entertained both the young and the old.

Friday night's concert was also, perhaps, the last performance ever of the all-male a cappella group Wolftones, since five of its members will be graduating from Boston Latin this year. The group have always been known for their impeccably smooth singing talents directed mainly towards the ladies. After a comedic introduction and saying of thanks, they did what they do best, singing popular songs such as K-Ci and JoJo's "All My Life" as well as the classical piece "Ave Maria." Ending with a soulful harmony, the Wolftones made their presence felt long after they had left the stage.

Music Night 2005 was a success thanks to everyone's hard work and continued diligence. As Mr. Pitts put it, "some people say that Music Night gets better every year. I think they may be right." We can only look forward to what wonders our Music Department will put together for us in 2006.

Reporting from Helen Pang, II.

"Phantom" Haunts Opera House

BY HELEN PANG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Lot 666, then," says the auctioneer, "a chandelier in pieces. Some of you may recall the strange affair of the Phantom of the Opera: a mystery never fully explained...Perhaps we may frighten away the ghost of so many years ago with a little illumination, gentlemen?" Then, with a spectacular bang and a flash of light, the garish chandelier glows fiercely and is swept off the floor, rising magically toward the ceiling as a decrepit opera house is miraculously returned to its former glory. Thunderous music—an enthralling fusion of rock and baroque—surges from the orchestra to shake the gilt ceiling of the Boston Opera House where all this is taking place. Welcome to the touring production of one of the most renowned musicals in the world, Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," which ran in Boston from March 30 to June 4.

When it was first announced that this show, which debuted in London in 1986, was coming to Boston, I was surprised by how many of my fellow students eagerly rushed to buy tickets. After all, there was a popular film version in theaters earlier this year, now on DVD. What poor high school student would pay \$20-\$80 to squint at tiny actors and set pieces from hundreds of feet away? Fortunately, those who chose to do so found an experience well worth the price.

First of all, what venue would be more appropriate for a production of "The Phantom of the Opera" than a magnificent historic theater such as the recently restored Boston Opera House? Such an evocative setting tempts one to imagine real phantoms lurking in the shadows behind the nearest elegantly carved grating. The production itself also makes ingenious use of the theater: several scenes are set up in such a way

that audience members almost feel as if they were sitting in the seats of the Paris Opera House, watching real events unfold before their eyes.

The most important aspect of any play, of course, is the quality of its performances; this production truly shines in this respect. For those unfamiliar with the classic story of "Phantom," it is a tale of love, angst, tragedy and horror, centered on the title character, an enigm-

atically, this production had an excellent cast. Especially stunning was Gary Mauer as the Phantom—with his powerful, expressive voice, he managed to poignantly convey both the menace and the torment embodied by his character. Overall, skillful and passionate renditions of Webber's mesmerizing songs successfully brought to life the rich, complex emotions propelling the personalities that ultimately drive the play itself.

The lavish set and special effects were also, for the most part, top-notch. Various pyrotechnic and shadow effects were genuinely frightening, while increasing the sense of danger and mystery surrounding the Phantom. Also adding to the mystique of the Phantom was the literal distance between the character and most audience members. Unlike in movie versions, it was nearly impossible to see the Phantom's unmasked face, leaving it up to the individual imagination. The only really disappointing visual effect was the famous climactic fall of the chandelier. Instead of crashing to the floor in a splendid whirl of light and noise, it simply swooped in a downward arc to land neatly and rather gently in the middle of the stage.

In spite of this and a few other minor weaknesses, such as the occasional satirical humor, which, though amusing, felt somewhat misplaced at times, this traveling production put on a memorable show. Provided that you were willing to shell out a bit more money, you may well have found the stage version of Webber's "Phantom" more evocative and rewarding than any movie adaptation. Unfortunately, this particular production ended on June 4, but you may be able to catch it in another city or see the original New York version on Broadway. In either case, you can expect a spectacular and passionate rendition of this classic gothic romance about the power of love and music.

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THE OPERA HOUSE



matic masked genius with the face of a monster and the voice of an angel, who haunts the Paris Opera House. Desperate for company, he becomes obsessed with an attractive chorus girl, Christine Daaë. Though she fears the murderous Phantom and loves another man, Christine remains entranced by the madman's divine music and emotional anguish. For a satisfactory portrayal, this drama requires considerable singing talent.

Spotlight Leah Skahen



BY JEFF BAUSEMER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you've ever smelled something really strange in the hallway, it was probably the boys' hockey equipment. That stuff has got the funk. But something else, or should I say someone else, also brings the funk. Shakenface has been an integral part of the funk since its inception in the 70's. Shakes really sets the funk bar. Some call her Funk Master Shakes, as I often do when we DJ on the weekend.

Before I digress too far, I'd like to get back to this girl's funk. Leah, first and foremost, brings the funk to the Black Box. This girl has been involved in theater since she was a sapling, attending camp programs at Bennington College and acting programs at the Huntington Theater. She has been in all of the recent school plays, including last year's "The Laramie Project" and "Dimly Perceived Threats to the System," all of which required a stupendous amount of hours to get just right.

But that's not all. This girl truly brought the funk as the director of this year's Guild play, "Reckless." I watched her shuffle through book after book looking for the right play, while running up a measly bill for herself of \$613 and some odd pennies in late fees at the library. I think she made a rather lovely decision. The play was amazing and captivated audiences around the globe. It could not have been done without Captain Shakes.

Other artistic endeavors include diving into the challenging AP Music Theory class. The girl cannot coax a single note out of any instrument, nor carry a tune, but she finds the challenge wild and exciting.

This girl is also a crazy brainiac. She's a member of the NHS and has won numerous awards over the years for her academic excellence. Fancy Pants is headed to Middlebury College next year, where I'm sure she'll break racial barriers (as she is inaccurately listed as African-American in the daily attendance) and will be entirely too amazing to be content. She wants to be a civil engineer, so I do expect her to "shake" the world of urban planning.

For the past few years, Leah has also been working on the *Argo* as photography editor, showing off still another part of her artistic funk. She has harbored a passion for artistic photography ever since she participated in the Latin School photography class during and after school as a sophomore.

And there's still more! She's involved in soccer programs outside of school, where she holds it down while kicking back, forward and side to side. Here's the best part: she works on a farm! It couldn't be any more perfect for this bird nerd.

I spent most of last year getting to know this girl struggling through Ms. Fulwider's class (actually, not really struggling; we were kind of the bomb in that class), and talking about Facing History and whatnot. This year Leah has become one of my best friends and she's one of the classiest ladies I've met to date, never paying more than chump-change for a prom dress. She's got class, funk and a whole lot of worthless knowledge on birds. I'm so glad I got my talons on her.

Asian Night Blends Modern, Traditional

By LAUREN MAKHOLM, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Although this year's Asian Night, hosted by the Boston Latin School student organization Asian Students in Action (A.S.I.A.), started off with many unfortunate events, such as one emcee's showing up hoarse for third period and the spotlight bulb breaking before the show, all of the performers came through to make it a memorable night. As some of the hosts commented after the show, "It gets better every year," and this year's show was astounding, despite some sound problems and a script that was "horribly cheesy," as performer Hoi Nguyen (II) put it.

The night's pre-show began with two vocal duets and a selection of Beijing opera. The Beijing opera group was especially impressive with their very ornate and colorful costumes. Hosted by Vinh Hua (II) and Neysa Shum (II), the pre-show numbers provided a calm introduction for the fast and crazy show to come. The main part of the program began with the annual Fashion Show, which showed off many examples of Asian attire. The Fashion Show also introduced the theme that ran through the whole night, that of dating and breaking up. During the course of the show, Vinh and Neysa

revealed both their history and feelings towards each other, and Jesse Ngo (II), an emcee, was turned down three times before he read to the audience his list of what he wants in a girl. Such lines made the audience shake their heads, either because the lines were too predictable or because themes like Jesse's love life were a little overdone. Other parts of the script included a discussion of the sixie rolling bags and an exchange between two people who couldn't figure out what a phoenix was without the use of a dictionary.

Then, the dancing started. The girls in First Blush took to the stage and performed a sweet dance in pink with "Non La" hats that flew through the air. Then, *Contraddiction* showed off a sassier side

to dancing, ripping off their more conservative pastel shirts to reveal black tank tops and showing off their moves. Peter Abichaker (I) and Jia Yi He (I) then sang a calmer slow song, "Ai Wo De Zi Ge," before Bedazzled came out with a flower dance in shining golden costumes.

As the night progressed, Emily Shum (I) captivated the audience by showing off her amazing skills in Asian dancing, which she has practiced since seventh grade. Her dance was welcomed as a more traditional form of Asian culture. FOB (Five Oriental Boys) then took to the stage as the only all-male dancing group of the night, and broke into a song by *NSYNC, bringing cheers from the crowd. Dance act Phoenix Reborn, a favorite of the night, came

onstage and demonstrated their skill with long flowing rainbow fans. Wendy Wang (III) then sang "Wo Ai Ni Zhong Guo" (I love you, China).

Dhoom Machale, the only Indian act of the night, performed a sprightly dance in various brightly colored costumes, and Dandan Zhu (I), the winner of the A.S.I.A. Sing-Off held this past winter, sang "Reflections" from the Disney movie "Mulan." The last performance, a showcase of senior talent called So Fetch, ended the show with a bang and a proud display of "Class of 2005" signs.

The only real fault of the night was seemingly the quality of the speakers. The problem may have been with the volume, which distorted the sound of the singing throughout the night. Although the speakers didn't contribute to their performances, the singers of the night did a fabulous job with their pieces.

A.S.I.A., which was founded in 1996, currently consists of around 200 members in the Boston Latin community. The officers spend months planning the annual Asian Night, and this year, all the hard work of President Tracy Wu (I), Vice Presidents Johnson Tran (I) and Peter Abichaker (I), certainly paid off. Good luck to the officers of 2006—you have a tough act to follow!



THE ASIAN NIGHT ACT "PHOENIX REBORN" POSES WITH FANS DURING A DRESS REHEARSAL.

JEFFREY ZHANG, II

A "Crash" Into Reality

By ANUSHREE RAY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For anyone who believes that racism has diminished in the United States, the movie "Crash" is a harsh reality check. A shockingly realistic portrayal of a diverse post-September 11 community, this movie provides a glimpse into the lives of 16 people representing various ethnicities and social classes present in America. In this audacious directorial debut, Paul Haggis, writer and producer of the Oscar-winning film "Million Dollar Baby," presents an unflinching look at the racial tensions still alive and thriving in our society today.

This provocative insight into the

depths of humanity is presented by a star-studded cast that includes Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Brendan Fraser, Jason Isaacs, Ryan Phillippe and rapper Ludacris. Written and co-produced by Haggis, the film traces the lives of certain multi-ethnic residents of Los Angeles as they intersect over the course of 36 hours. An egocentric district attorney and his depressed aristocratic wife, an angry Asian couple, a righteous Caucasian rookie cop with a racist colleague, a helpless Persian store owner and a detective overcoming his past with the help of his Hispanic female partner are all players in this tangled web of miscommunication and prejudice. The movie opens up with a literal car

crash, and two detectives, Don Cheadle and Jennifer Esposito, are called in to investigate the body of an unidentified boy. Slipping into a flashback, the story spirals into an explanation about the origin of the death, interweaving several other tales in the process. *LA Weekly* praises "Crash" as "one of the finest portrayals of LA contemporary life." This acclaimed film takes the audience on a journey into the heart of the racial stereotypes and social hierarchies present in any diverse metropolitan city today. Simultaneously, "Crash" urges viewers to question their own preconceived notions. While all the characters on screen are continuously destroyed and redeemed throughout the movie, many in

the audience find themselves reevaluating their own lives and coming to the stunning conclusion that they are really no better than the "villains" in the film.

In fact, each character in this brilliant narration is simultaneously a hero and a villain; a racist can also be a courageous professional and a good son. A morally strong individual can make a fatal mistake based on a moment's indecision. A wounded minority can lash out against another "inferior" minority due to frustration and anger. The unifying reason behind all this hostility and animosity can be loneliness. "Crash" is truly, as deemed

CRASH

continued on page 27

Teens Are Stuck On Tattoos

By ANDREW KLEIN, IV
STAFF WRITER

We all remember them, those ever-so-popular rub-on, removable tattoos that were such a fixture in elementary school and the days of pre-pre-adolescence. In the past, the middle school and high school years were a hiatus from all types of tattooing. The rub-on tattoos were no longer "cool," and, frankly, were fooling no one; we were not yet old enough for real tattoos.

But now, more and more young adults are taking a direct leap from the rub-on to the real thing. A female sophomore who wishes to remain anonymous described tattoos as "always something that had interested me. When I was about 13, my oldest sister got a tattoo and I really began to think about when I would want to get done." This girl now has a small, simple Aquarius symbol tattoo on her lower stomach.

The demand for tattoos among youths is growing. A few years ago, the only way for minors to obtain tattoos was through illegal means. Now there are several studios in New England alone that will give tattoos to minors. These include Bad to the Bone Studios and Phat Cat

Tattoos in Lynn, Massachusetts.

Hannah Kirschbaum (III) got her "ink" done at Phat Cat Tattoos in a process that was completely legal. "My dad drove me to Lynn," says Kirschbaum. "I walked into the studio with a drawing of the tattoo I wanted. Minors are required to have an I.D. and a parent with them for proof of consent but most studios don't tattoo minors." Kirschbaum, who has a tribal tattoo with a star in the center, is very happy with it and plans on perhaps getting a few more small ones.

When it comes to what's popular in a tattoo, the sky's the limit. The variety of choices is only exceeded by the great range of body parts on which they are done. For the ever-growing pool of minors who have tattoos, Kirschbaum believes "there isn't a certain type of tattoo that

is more popular than any other." The anonymous sophomore, however, does observe that "if there are are] usually in Chinese

words, [they and mean something simple like love, truth, faith, etc." In addition, she asserts that "people also tend to have religious tattoos."

In a past edition of the *Argo*, the A & E section ran a story debating whether tattoos were a form of art. Many people believed that tattooing is art that uses the body as a canvas. Both sophomores interviewed in this article also believed there is no debate. "I definitely think that tattooing is art," says the anonymous tenth grader. "Just because it's on your skin doesn't really make it different than being on a mural; it's just a unique way of expressing yourself. Not only that, but it's also a skill; there are tat-



ONE TEENAGE GIRL PROUDLY DISPLAYS HER STAR

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too parlors that work off of stencils and there are tattoo artists." Kirschbaum also believes that there is no question regarding the aesthetic value of tattoos: "The only difference between a tattoo artist and any other artist is the medium on which the artist works. A tattoo is done on the human body, whereas a painter may paint on canvas and a sculptor may sculpt clay. It takes time, practice and talent for a person to become a tattoo artist."

These claims may counter some of the complaints of tattoo critics, but however glamorous tattooing may seem, there are always great safety issues. Using unsterilized needles can lead to HIV and other infections. Kirschbaum cautions minors, "If you want a tattoo and you're under 18, wait until your parents say it's okay because there are serious health risks to getting a tattoo 'under the table.'" Tattooing can be a great thing and is a unique way of expressing oneself, but it is important to know all the risks involved before making the leap. For a safe alternative, why not take a page from elementary school? Rub-on tattoos could be the next big thing.



A Sci-Fi Fest

This issue, A&E is featuring two science-fiction movies of different virtues. Both were very anticipated, but we couldn't pick just one. Thus, we decided to reviewed both. Visit theatres this weekend and see one, or both!



"Sith" Hits The Fan

BY LISA JING, II
FORUM EDITOR

For most "Star Wars" fans, "Revenge of the Sith" will be a breath of fresh air after the slapdash "Attack of the Clones" and "The Phantom Menace." Viewers will applaud the stunning special effects, the speed and intensity of the battle scenes and the welcome disappearance of Jar Jar Binks.

After all, what "Revenge" does best is clean up after its predecessors' spills. It's in its own puddle of ambition, however, that the film suffers.

"Revenge" is the first movie in the prequel trilogy to attempt to bring "Star Wars" back to "Star Wars," reviving the passionate human drama of the original films while loosening its hold on John Williams's score as its only crutch. Perhaps because of its place in the series, "Revenge" tries too fast and too hard to tie up loose ends, playing the dual role of putting to rest one generation of "Star Wars" while simultaneously providing the springboard for another. It's no wonder that with a two and a half hour runtime, hundreds of Jedi to kill, a Republic to destroy, one Jedi to go rotten and a whole legion of characters to usher away before the entrance of Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher in "A New Hope," "Revenge" would have its fair share of pacing problems. Unfortunately, these problems also manifest themselves in the worst form possible: by impeding on the struggle and fall of Anakin Skywalker.

Don't get me wrong. "Revenge" is a great film, especially after the terror longtime fans and casual observers alike suffered during the first two installments. In "Revenge," not a second passes by when our adrenaline sits still or our dread dissipates, the loud brass instruments heralding the coming darkness and our budding fear. Fans will be pleased to note that Hayden Christensen graduates from wooden acting as he sheds his Padawan braid, and Ewan McGregor renders bearable otherwise terrible dialogue. Ian McDiarmid's performance, especially, as the evil and calculating Chancellor Palpatine, brings an especially interesting tenor to the film: not only does he portray evil in its most frightening form—hidden, patient, and like a predator, prowling for the right moment to strike—his depiction of Palpatine is also the focus of many a controversial debate on the liberal orientation of the film.

The speed and intensity of "Revenge" also pay off in the stunning battle sequences, which set an energetic tone for the film maintained up until the very end when Obi-Wan and Anakin's lightsabers clash in duel. In one of the most powerful scenes in the movie, Obi-Wan shouts at his twisted apprentice, "You were the chosen one! You were supposed to destroy the Sith, not join them!" The concentration of power and emotion in this scene, revealed in pockets throughout the film, gives "Revenge" a terrifying but satisfying edge redeeming much of what the trilogy lacked as a whole.

The moments leading up to the final half-hour, however, are undeniably flawed at points. Had its closing quarter not been so satisfying, "Revenge" may have burnt out weakly like its forerunners.

The trouble stems mainly from the burden the movie carries. Not only

is "Revenge" Lucas' final opportunity to resuscitate his beloved "prequel vision," it also has the immense responsibility of deconstructing the cute, blond Jake Lloyd and the sappy, inept Hayden Christensen, into a galactic monster who terrorized screens as Darth Vader. More importantly, this evil had to retain a shred of decency, be twisted but redeemable, lost but tragic in our eyes—rendering Anakin's fall not purely as a product of evil and selfishness, but something of loss, denial and even love.

As a result, Lucas sets Anakin on an Othello trajectory, centering his fall around his relationship with Padmé Amidala, played by Natalie Portman. This tactic may have worked well had Padmé been given an actual role in "Revenge," rather than that of frail and submissive mother-to-be. She devotes most of her screen time to exchanging wooden dialogue with Hayden Christensen ("You're so beautiful."/"That's only because I am so in love."/"No, it's because I'm so in love with you.") and stroking her bulging stomach. With such a wife, it's no wonder Anakin would turn to the dark side.



This depiction of Padmé also has its consequences: because a great part of Anakin's fall is credited to the "passion" of their clandestine relationship, weakening Padmé's character undermines the sting and tragedy of Anakin's downfall. His final tumble appears to be the result of a series of bad days and unlucky encounters ("What have I done?" He asks horrified at one point, before answering, "Yes, Master [Palpatine]"), instead of the consequence of a long, brewing internal conflict. Had Lucas really concentrated on molding Anakin's relationship with Obi-Wan and on exploring the full breadth of his disillusionment—that he believed the Jedi were bad because Palpatine said so, that he had only been trying to save his wife but "accidentally" joined the bad guys in the process—his master's final scream "I have failed you, Anakin!" would have been infinitely more powerful.

As it is, Anakin falls awkwardly and abruptly from grace while Lucas colors his plunge with weak shades of tragedy.

The plot and accompanying battles earn "Revenge" a stamp of overall freshness. However, it seems that Lucas still has yet to regain his touch from the original films. He's failed to learn the important lesson that what made the classic trilogy so impressive was not his CGI Yoda or the splashy digital battle scenes, but its solid character development and unbridled creativity—unlikely consequences of his limited technological resources.

Ultimately, the true disappointment of Episode III is not how far it missed the perfection of the original films, but in how close it came..

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But "Don't Panic"

BY YUCONG MA, II
A&E EDITOR

There's nothing that can make an awful day complete like having your house demolished. Unless, of course, you're Arthur Dent, a run-of-the-mill Englishman who has the fortune to see his own planet destroyed the same day. If this sounds familiar, you've probably read the oft-misnamed "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," or saw the film version in theaters after April 29.

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is the brainchild of the late British writer Douglas Adams. With the release of the novel in 1979, it became a cult phenomenon in Europe. Adams was a genius of the best kind: a funny one who pioneered the comedic path of science-fiction by writing in the grand British tradition of wry humor. This silver-screen version is the latest incarnation in a long line of radio plays, BBC films and books. For those who are anticipating the movie plot to be a carbon-copy of that of the book, this film will be a sore disappointment. But fans who are searching for Adams's signature wry humor are in luck; director Garth Jennings made this aspect his main focus. Though Adams died in 2001, the script that he began writing was later revised by Jennings and Karey Kirkpatrick. Subtle ideas throughout the film hint at Adams's influence from beyond the grave, and as a result, the work overall still bears the impression of his hand.

Not everything, however, was arranged as the late author had intended. The original cast of "Hitchhiker's Guide" that Adams had in mind was quite different from the mélange that appears onscreen. Hugh Laurie, who stars in the FOX drama "House, M.D.," was originally Adams's choice for Arthur Dent, along with Jim Carrey to play his semi-archival, Zaphod Beeblebrox. Instead, Dent is portrayed by Martin Freeman ("Love Actually"), whose character is rescued from Earth by his friend Ford Prefect, played by Mos Def. This casting decision initially created some confusion, because many fans had not envisioned Ford Prefect as black, but a convincing performance erased most doubts for critics. The two are joined by Zooey Deschanel, who plays Trisha MacMillian, also known as Trillian, and Sam Rockwell, who took over Carrey's original designation to play the president of the universe, Zaphod Beeblebrox.

The focus of the movie, of course, is still The Guide. Stephen Fry, an acclaimed British comedian, provides the voice of the electronic Guide, which is a self-updating compilation of travel notes on planets and cultures throughout the galaxy, and in short, knows everything about anything. Its most prominent feature is the slogan "DON'T PANIC" emblazoned over the front. The most amusing scenes feature small anecdotes explained through animated silhouettes, accompanied by Fry's dry tone. No words can do justice to these scenes, which are so visually delightful that one can only thoroughly appreciate them onscreen.

The plot of "Hitchhiker's Guide" is disorienting and hard to follow, so for those who need a brief synopsis, mice and dolphins are the smartest creatures on Earth in Adams' universe. When the planet is destroyed to make way for a new

hyperspace freeway, Arthur Dent is rescued by his alien friend Ford Prefect, and the two become intergalactic hitchhikers. In a series of improbable coincidences, a trademark of Adams's humor, they are picked up by the *Heart of Gold*, a new spaceship piloted by Zaphod Beeblebrox, also Ford's drinking buddy. In tow is Trillian; once Arthur's girlfriend back on *terra firma*, she was swept off by the gregarious Zaphod, and abandoned her previous life to travel the universe. This unlikely quartet of travelers, accompanied by Marvin, a depressed robot ably-voiced by Alan Rickman ("Harry Potter") journey in search of the Answer to Life, The Universe, and Everything. Their quest concludes at the planet Magrathrea, where some, but not all secrets, are explained.

Part of the attraction of here is the wry humor and small details that pop up in otherwise serious moments. For example, engineers have programmed all technology on board to enjoy their job thoroughly; each door opens and closes with a contented sigh that is reminiscent of post-coital relaxation.



This occurs several times throughout the movie, breaking the ice after some very grave scenes. Conversely, amusing moments can subtly turn into emotionally laden silences, more often than not leaving the audience unsure of how to react. For instance, a quirky scene explains the invention of the point-of-view gun by the Intergalactic Federation of Angry Housewives. This weapon causes the victim to immediately see things from the point of view of the shooter. Trillian, frustrated with the insensitivity of her male companions, embarks on a shooting spree against Zaphod and Ford. Her trigger-finger falters, however, when Zaphod begins to blurt out her innermost thoughts, and a purposeful silence descends to let the audience contemplate Trillian and Arthur's budding romance. This poor editing choice is one of many which leaves the audience wavering between sympathizing with the characters and laughing at such a transparent attempt to create empathy.

On the bright side, however, this comedic movie is accompanied by a skillful soundtrack, composed by Joby Talbot. A highlight is "So Long and Thanks for All the Fish," the anthem of the dolphins, who escape Earth before the scheduled demolition, set to music by director Jennings. This soundtrack complements the film's well-timed humor. Overall, some jokes fall flat on the screen where they triumphed on paper, and corny moments make for awkward laughs. Nevertheless, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" strikes a chord harmonious enough to be appreciated by viewers of any age. Currency of any solar system accepted, at movie theaters across in the galaxy.

"Crash" Reflects Urban Conflict

CRASH

continued from page 23

by the *Chicago Tribune*, an "explosive crime drama with a superb cast," with humorous moments that initially shock the audience with their audacity and stifle them with laughter a second later. Though it contains countless subtle but substantial messages, "Crash" is, thanks to careful editing by Hughes Winborne, a fast-paced movie with a plot that oscillates between the past and the present and among the different characters. There are many spectacularly directed scenes, which are enhanced by the excellent original score by Mark Isham. It is his extraordinary musi-



THANDIE NEWTON SAVED BY BLAH BLAH BLAH

cal touch that leaves the audience breathless during the heart-wrenching climaxes in this powerful movie. In the end, the reaction "[a] must see!" by *Entertainment Weekly* proves to be quite an understatement.

Although it opened to full houses and has received outstanding reviews, "Crash" has not received the publicity it deserves. Its release has been unfortunately overshadowed by the hype surrounding "Revenge of the Sith" and "Monster-in-Law." I myself had no

idea what this movie was about when a friend suggested we go see it, and I was pleasantly surprised to find a packed theater when we arrived. After 100 minutes of intense drama and suspense filled with unpredictable twists and turns, I left the movie theater feeling oddly unsettled but profoundly moved by the complex depiction of our reality. So keep an ear out for upcoming ventures by Paul Haggis, who is currently working on several joint projects with Clint Eastwood and Steven Spielberg. After watching this electrifying social thriller, one can tell that he is a newcomer to watch out for. In the meantime, grab a couple of friends and a box of tissues, sit back and let this volatile movie jar your social conscience back to reality.

BLS Musicians Shine at David Lapin

BY WILLIAM PHAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB), which occupies a small corner in Back Bay next to the Boston Ballet, is easy to pass by if you are not looking. Many students from Boston Latin School, however, attend the CMCB, a school dedicated to providing musical education and related services especially to underprivileged neighborhoods and individuals. Aside from teaching students, the center also hosts recitals and concerts almost always for free. Just last month, the center held its 12th annual David Lapin competition, which showcases students' vocal and instrumental talents.

The competition, named after David Lapin, the CMCB's current executive director of 22 years, held its final round

early this April. Moving on from the preliminaries two days earlier were Abby Bok, Erica Chan, Tien Le, Jane Qu, Steve Rada and Boston Latin musicians Felix Duong (II) and Christopher Middleton (VI) in the junior division. In the senior division, Molly Higgins (I), Helena Hong (V), Veronica Koven-Matasy (II), Margaret Lam (II), Cindy Lee (I) Berlinda Luong (I) and Liam McCabe (I) were finalists.

Competitors must have two pieces prepared to play by memory for the competition. During the preliminaries, one of the two to be played is chosen at random, but during the finals both must be performed. Pieces are judged on technical skill and artistic ability, and first, second and third place winners are chosen in each division. The junior division winners are awarded cash prizes of \$125, \$75 and \$50, while the prizes for senior division

winners amount to \$250, \$175 and \$125, respectively.

The competition is open to any student of the CMCB with any instrument. In fact, last year Koven-Matasy was registered in the preliminaries twice, both as a vocalist and a violinist. This year, each of McCabe's pieces was played either on the drums or on the xylophone. Though the competition is open to all students of the centre, the majority of this year's competitors are also part of the Intensive Study Program (ISP), a scholarship program the CMCB offers to some of its students. The program includes weekly music theory and performance classes, as well as a recital at the end of the year.

So what is it like being in the competition? While many of the musicians found the actual performance nerve-wracking, most think that the competition is a good

experience. Lam, a piano student of eight years and a Lapin competitor for the past four years, says that "the atmosphere isn't like other competitions. Most of us have been together for several years, and we're all friends, so I don't ever think, 'Oh, I really have to beat the other person.' Everyone is very supportive and we all want the best for each other."

After the competition, participants always retire to the Music Center's small library for refreshments. The musicians have a chance to mingle, eat and congratulate each other. Well, in most cases, they do. "I think Jim was still trying to tell me that my tempo was off," Luong says, jokingly. This year's winners are Middleton, Rada, Duong for first, second and third place, respectively, in the junior division, and Luong, Lam and Hong in the senior division.

"Sleeping Beauty" Awakens at the Wang

BY JULIA RYAN, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is one of Tchaikovsky's most renowned works. Its graceful choreography, by Marius Petipa, has held audiences captive since its debut on January 15, 1890 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since then, Disney has taken it under its wing so that the majority of American children can recite its enchanting story in their sleep. However, if you haven't seen "Sleeping Beauty" the ballet, you are in for a pleasant surprise.

For those who have managed to go through life without hearing the story of the Sleeping Beauty, here's a brief synopsis. King Florestan and his queen are having a christening for their new baby, Aurora. Faerie Carabosse, enraged because she has not been invited to the ceremony, curses the baby, announcing that one day Aurora will prick her finger and die. The Lilac Faerie, however, assures that the girl will not die, but will instead fall into a deep sleep, to be awakened by the kiss of a prince. Fast forward to Aurora's 16th birthday party, where a mysterious cloaked woman appears and, as a birthday present, gives Aurora a spindle. Aurora pricks her finger, and, as foreseen, she and the rest of the kingdom fall into a deep sleep. One hundred years later, the young Prince Florimund is hunting in a forest when the Lilac Faerie conjures up an image of Aurora, causing him to instantly fall in love with her. The Lilac Faerie then leads Florimund back to the castle, where he kisses Aurora. The

kingdom wakes up from its sleep and everyone lives happily ever after: a sappy, yet very beautiful and classic plot.

A characteristic of "Sleeping Beauty" that sets it apart from other ballets of the 19th century is the quality of the music. "Ballet music...was written by mediocre composers who devised negligible scores filled with interchangeable melodies of dubious distinction," says freelance writer Sheryl Flatow. However, Tchaikovsky sought to improve the cali-

ber of ballet music. Tchaikovsky and choreographer Marius Petipa worked closely together on "Sleeping Beauty," which helped to make the music and dance in the ballet flow together more smoothly. Tchaikovsky uses music to develop characters. As Aurora grows physically and mentally, her themes become more and more detailed and confident. This helps the viewer to feel a connection with Aurora and to better enjoy the ballet.

The choreography of "Sleeping Beauty" is also flawless. Petipa brings many emotions, such as humor, anger and of course, love, into his choreography. The *pas de deux* between Aurora and Florimund is breathtaking, filled with compassion, swelling music and elegant lifts. In Act III, when Puss in Boots arrives at the wedding party, Petipa has the dancers imitate the stealthy movements of a cat to make the dancing more realistic and amusing. Through his choreography, Petipa creates a separate personality for each character.

The sets at the Wang Center are always detailed and stunning, and the backdrop of this ballet is no exception. The

most exquisite set appears in Act II, in a scene where Prince Florimund and his court are hunting in the forest. The set of the forest is made up of an intricate painted background. Many detailed screens also add depth to the stage.

The costumes are equally amazing. I personally like the faerie costumes the best. They are shimmering and ethereal. To top it off, each faerie sports a jewel-encrusted tiara visible from even the most distant corners of the theater.

Something that I find quite interesting about "Sleeping Beauty" is its similarity in layout to other 19th century ballets. Take "The Nutcracker," for example. Both ballets begin with a dance scene in honor of a special occasion; Christmas is celebrated in "The Nutcracker," and "Sleeping Beauty" begins with Aurora's christening. Both have a heroic magical character, embodied by the Lilac Faerie in "Sleeping Beauty" and Drosselmeier in "The Nutcracker." Finally, both end with a celebratory event, at which guests perform individual dances before the whole company dances a finale. Whether these are similarities in the structure of most 19th century ballets or only of ballets put on by the Boston Ballet, they create some interesting parallels between two cherished pieces.

A ballet may not be everybody's idea of a fun time, but for me, it's a childhood dream. Even if you do not, did not or never will have the slightest yearning to see ballet, you most definitely will not be disappointed in "Sleeping Beauty."



A NEW YORK PRODUCTION OF TCHAIKOVSKY'S "SLEEPING BEAUTY."

Websites Honor Humanitarians

By OLIVIA PAQUETTE, II
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

For those who have seen and heard nothing of the Seevak Website Competition beyond several brief announcements in the Daily Bulletin, it is difficult to understand the commitment and endurance it requires. Proof of the rigor of the competition, which is annual and nearly yearlong, lies in the number of teams who do not make it to the end: of the 30 teams who began the competition this year, only seven were able to complete their sites to be submitted for judging. According to participant Kevin Wong (II), one has to be "willing to give up other things," sometimes including jobs and clubs, in order to finish. Several afternoons a week over a period of months are spent working on sites. Even during free time, Seevak remains in the back of one's mind; as five-year veteran Ifeoma Onuorah (II) puts it, "It's like your mom—it won't leave you alone."

The work, however, is for a worthy goal: to honor an individual or group that has "made a significant contribution to issues of tolerance, democratic institutions and/or human rights," according to the judging rubric. Each team of three students chooses a subject in December and spends the following months designing and creating a website to be presented in May before a panel of judges. Sites are judged on their effectiveness in "mak[ing] a strong case" for their subjects who, this year, included individuals from around the world representing a range of fields from politics to music and visual arts.

The competition is the brainchild of Mr. Sheldon Seevak, '46, the notable alumnus who established and sponsors

the Facing History and Ourselves program at Boston Latin School. The idea for the website competition, says Mr. Seevak, was inspired by the success of the Student Research Competition, which he also sponsors at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. Mr. Seevak hoped that a similar competition at BLS would help participants gain valuable skills in teamwork, research and communication in "all forms...written, oral and all the latest technology." Most importantly, students



MR. SEEVAK POSES WITH THE WINNING TEAM; FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KATHERINE HARRISON, JO WERBA AND REBECCA BILODEAU (III).

"would learn about Justice, Democracy and the importance of Participating in the Democratic Process" and "realiz[e] that they too can make a difference." Mr. Seevak awards scholarship prizes to winners of the competition; each member of a team placed in first, second or third place receives \$1000, \$500 or \$250, respectively.

Beginning in January, weekly training

is provided for the many students in the Seevak Competition who have no previous experience in web design. In addition, each team meets regularly with its technology advisor, often an alumnus/a of Boston Latin and of the competition. Ke Zhang (II), technology advisor to one team and student coordinator of all the projects, says that most teams used Adobe Photoshop for visual layout, then converted their images to HTML using Macromedia Dreamweaver. Only three teams worked extensively

with Flash (also from Macromedia): the site devoted to Sister Ann Fox of South Boston, which was one of the third place winners, has a Flash intro; the third place winning site on Kenyan politician Wangari Maathai and the second place site on artist Ben

SEEVAK

Continued on page 29

E³ 2005

By ARI KLIICKSTEIN, IV & KIERAN KELLY, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) in Los Angeles is the biggest annual event in the unpredictable and fiercely competitive video game industry. At E3 2005, held May 18-20, the major home console manufacturers, Microsoft, Nintendo and Sony, introduced aspects of their new systems as well as new games and technology for their current and future gaming platforms.

Sony was the first to reveal the highly impressive graphics and processing of their new, entertainment-centered PlayStation 3. The familiar Dual-Shock PS2 controller has gone wireless and aboriginal for the PS3, with a boomerang-style design and the option of connecting seven controllers via Bluetooth. In addition to standard CDs and DVDs, including PS1 and PS2 software, the PS3 will use Sony's new Blu-Ray disc format. Sony hopes to provide additional space on the system for digital video, audio and photos, video chat and Internet access. Sony would also like to connect its PlayStation Portable system with the PS3 for expanded game play options, a technique previously pioneered by Nintendo. The PS3 is expected to be released in Spring 2006, at approximately the same price at launch as the PS1 and PS2: \$386.

After Sony's presentation, Microsoft showed off the Xbox 360, which dons more of the appearance of a PC tower than its bulky predecessor and contains much more graphical and processing power. The Xbox 360 will come with online capabilities and will feature a removable 20 GB hard drive (about the space of most iPods) for storing media transferred from a wirelessly networked PC. The hard drive will also have downloadable arcade games similar to those available online, for a fee, as well as player stats and new multiplayer maps from Xbox Live, Microsoft's Online Gaming Service. The Xbox 360 will also feature limited backwards compatibility with its most popular games. Microsoft's system is scheduled to be released around Thanksgiving 2005 at about \$300.

Nintendo had a more secretive showing at E3 than did its two competitors. It displayed its new system, codenamed the Revolution, but did not show footage of Next-Gen games or reveal its unique controller, which Nintendo says will begin a "revolution" worthy of its name. They believe that the future of videogames cannot depend on faster processors and prettier graphics alone. Nintendo, famous for its in-house-developed games, will launch the Revolution with new games from its legendary franchises. Nintendo also has announced that the Revolution will feature online gaming, and the ability to download and play classic Nintendo games from 1984 through 2001. A pricing structure for downloading has not been decided. In addition to playing older games, the new system will also be backwards compatible with their current system, the Gamecube. The Revolution is expected to be released around the same time as the PS3, but at a lower price, between \$150 and \$200. Focusing on its current systems for its conference, Nintendo showed a new Legend of Zelda game, easily one of the most anticipated games this year, in addition to other new games.

With advanced new technology, game play techniques and increased online options, this coming gaming generation will prove to be the hardest on gamers' wallets, although the new experiences should be highly enjoyable for gamers' thumbs.

More information about E3 can be found online at gamestop.com/e3.

'Tiger' Bares Its Teeth

By ISAAC MEISTER, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Apple's innovative new operating system threatens Windows — and some end users.

On April 29, 2005, Apple Computers launched Mac OS X 10.4, code-named Tiger, in its most significant rewrite of its now four-year-old operating system to date, openly challenging rival industry leader Microsoft and its Windows XP operating system. Major advancements made by Apple include the ability to search and organize files, automate repetitive tasks and provide information at the stroke of a key, placing the operating system light-years ahead of Microsoft. As a result, expectations for the next version of Windows, slated for release in 2006, have been meaningfully raised. These revolutionary new features, however, remain well in need of adjustment.

Tiger's biggest claim to fame is Spotlight, its new system-wide search function. By hitting a customizable key and typing in virtually anything, one can use Spotlight to search nearly any type of file on a hard drive—Word documents, photographs, music files, mail messages and more—and intelligently sort them by category. Better yet, Spotlight searches inside files in addition to scanning file names. In theory, one might never have to look through folders again. The feature, however, has yet to be refined: it does not always "intelligently" remember search terms like similar third-party applications (imagine having to type out "Microsoft PowerPoint" whenever you want to launch it), and its indexing process, especially when working with other hard drives, can literally take days to complete.

Also new to Tiger is Dashboard, a

customizable set of utilities that any Mac user can call up at a keystroke. Dashboard capitalizes on the success of Exposé, a feature introduced in OS X 10.3 ("Panther") able to organize desktop windows for easy access. By fading the desktop and all open applications to the background, Exposé exposes a host of micro-applications known as "widgets." Pressing F12 allows users to access programs such as weather forecasts, the Oxford English Dictionary, mini-Tetris, and a 12-language translator marginally more intelligent than BabelFish. Dashboard closely resembles Konfabulator, a third-party utility widely available before Tiger's release, even in its use of the term "widget" for the micro-



THE NEWEST VERSION OF APPLE SOFTWARE IS TIGER, OR MAC OS X 10.4

applications. This similarity has not escaped the notice of some users, who believe it to be more than coincidence.

Tiger also attempts to speed up the operating system in two ways: a brand new kernel and a more user-friendly scripting tool, the Automator. The new kernel, which is smaller, thus faster, than its 10.3 predecessor, yields enormous speed boosts for Apple's new G5 processor. The first system

core to make use of the processor's advanced 64-bit capabilities, it also cuts boot-up and login times by as much as 15 seconds. Although designed to make repetitive tasks like renaming files and rotating images easier for the average user, the Automator is not entirely successful. Its interface is less than intuitive, a rarity for Apple, and has a steep enough learning curve that beginners spend more time learning it than using it. Users accustomed to AppleScript, on the other hand, frustrated by the narrow base of applications that Automator supports, won't be tempted to make the switch.

Despite universal acknowledgment of and acclaim for Tiger, endorsement of the upgrade has been lukewarm. Although the 18 months taken to develop Tiger, six months longer than the norm, were also used to make Mac OS X 10.3 exceptionally stable, bugs in Tiger, while rarely serious, remain prominent. The first service revision (10.4.1) fixes critical networking, Windows compatibility and external file system issues as well as security holes, but does not address justified criticisms over inconsistencies in the look of the user interface or refine Dashboard and Spotlight. Furthermore, users who dislike Spotlight and Dashboard cannot turn them off without making use of potentially dangerous operating system hacks, a problem that occurs across the board with the new changes. Such insensitivity to users from Apple is rare. Overall, the release of Tiger decisively vaults Apple ahead of Microsoft. Although unquestionably on the leading edge of technology, Tiger's as-of-yet untried advances may still alienate end users who value Panther's time-tested reliability.

TECH

Live from Studio 009

BY YUCONG MA, II
A&E EDITOR

Every morning in homeroom, those of you who are lucky enough to have a working projector get to watch a live broadcast from BLSTV, the school's student-run TV station. Even though nearly everyone has heard of it, few truly know what goes on in that small room in the basement. For this issue, the Arts and Entertainment editors sat down with Andrew LeGendre (II), from BLSTV.

Q: So how'd this entire operation get started, and what do you have stashed down there in the basement?

A: BLSTV first aired from Studio 009 in fall 2004 under the direction of Kerryann Foley, '04, and is now headed by Scott Gatto (II) and myself with our assistant producers Chris Smith (III) and Andrew Hannon (III). The studio is well equipped with two professional studio DV cameras, a video switchboard, an audio mixer allowing up to six microphones and all the necessary preview monitors. New additions this year are two computers and teleprompters. Since its start two years ago, the station has limited itself mainly to reading the daily bulletin and suppressing urgent news about the Power Rangers.

Q: And what's up with that intro? It looks like someone dug it up from the '80s.

A: This year, you may have noticed a few new additions to the broadcast, one of which is the catchy intro made by Paul Pokaski (II). The intro is a montage of video

clips from popular places in BLS, such as lockers or the library, set to upbeat music. Some have scoffed at this intro, claiming that it's "too cheesy" for our broadcast, but we are quite proud of Paul's creativity and are partial to the now familiar opening notes.



WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS: THE BLS TV STUDIO CONTROL ROOM.

Q: What's that creepy-looking hallway cam? Are you stalking us?

A: This addition, a hallway camera placed outside of the studio, has proven to be far more controversial than expected. In fact, we've heard that a concerned parent even called in claiming that we were secretly videotaping students. BLSTV, however, only has two permanent cameras outside of Studio 009. The most recent camera, the one in the hallway, is the one that prompted such concern. This camera is not there to spy on anybody, but was added to give our viewers something other than a purple screen to look at before the morning show. Of course, some people seem to have found other uses for this camera, such as, say, as an advertising ploy for certain homerooms. The other camera, added in December 2004, is in the booth of the auditorium (341A). Its purpose is to allow classes to view events in

the auditorium over Channel 28 at any time, even if they were not invited to an assembly. The auditorium camera is the one that was originally used when the show, then in its infancy, was broadcasting from the third-floor seminar room. It is able to broadcast over the school system by going through a RF modulator box to the distribution center in the library, which then puts the feed on the specified channel. This box is small and portable, allowing broadcast from any classroom using a standard DV camera borrowed from the Library Media Center.

Q: What are your future plans for world domination via BLSTV?

A: Adding to the progress that BLSTV

A: Unfortunately, up until recently, this footage was hardly adequate for a DVD because the sound quality had been terrible. The original solution for audio was a microphone hung out the window of the booth, but about a month ago the members of BLSTV ran a 250-foot composite cable from the window of the booth to the anteroom of the auditorium where the mixer for the sound system is. As a result, Channel 28 now has clear sound so you can understand every word Ms. Kelley pronounces at an assembly without being in the auditorium itself. With these new improvements and more support, it may be possible to have DVDs of many major BLS performances.

Q: Are you ever going to read anything other than the daily bulletin?

A: For us, the bulletin is not enough, so we are planning to expand into more content that matters to the students at BLS. We are currently looking for people who are willing to be broadcast journalists. A journalist would make a prerecorded segment, with the help of a technical assistant from Wolf-

pack Productions, to be aired before the morning news. They would simply borrow a camera from the library, tape their raw footage and then edit it together in one of the library's three editing suites. This job would be a lot of work, but would also be enjoyable. Anyone who is interested should come to Studio 009 before school or on a Monday after school.



THE MORNING BROADCAST DESK AFTER HOURS.

has made this year, we plan to be even more ambitious in the next few years. The library has a new DVD duplication system, which we hope to put to good use with a DVD of Asian Night and possibly even more events next year. BLSTV has actually been taping events in the auditorium all year long and providing the footage to show coordinators for performances like International Showcase and "Peter Pan."

Q: So why haven't we seen DVDs out of BLSTV before now?

Seevak Salutes Guthrie, Shahn, Sister Fox

SEEVAK

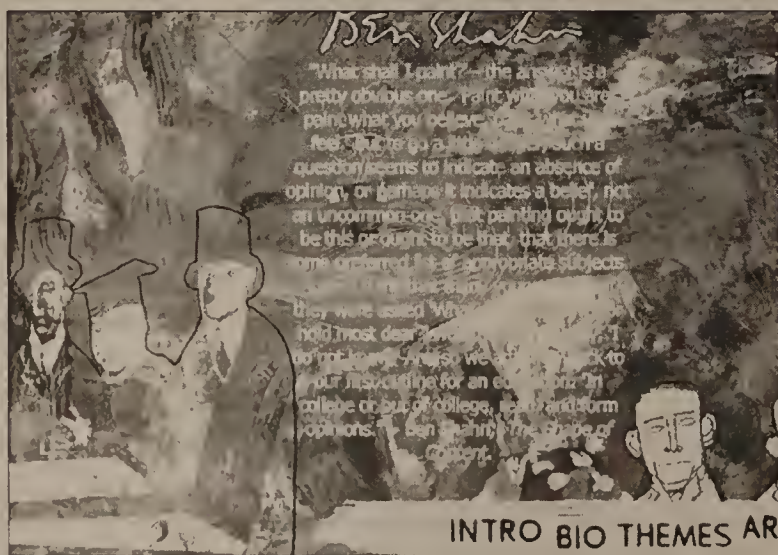
Continued from page 28

Shahn were both built entirely with Flash instead of Dreamweaver. Jesse Racusen (I), a member of the Ben Shahn team, says that his team felt Flash provided "the most flexibility to make an interactive website combining text and images." The team used Shahn's paintings as a visual background for pages, playing with the color to create a sophisticated black-and-red scheme. Teams were encouraged to create multimedia sites; in addition to photos, four teams included audio recordings, often of interviews with their subject, or, in the case of the First Place team that focused on musician Woody Guthrie, of the subject's work. The Sister Ann Fox team was the only one to include a video clip using iMovie.

Along with effective use of technology, the creation of a Seevak website also requires extensive research as well as writing and editing of content. Some teams opted to deal with the workload by dividing tasks among members, with usually one person focusing on technology. Others found it more effective for members to work together on all parts of the site. In either case, says Jo Werba (III), member of the Woody Guthrie

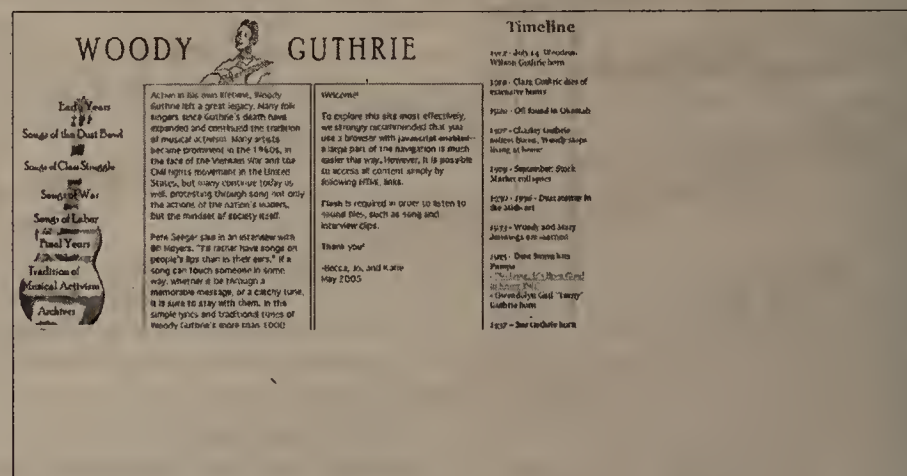
team, "It wouldn't have been possible to isolate different parts, because then the website would be unconnected and mismatched."

Although the quality of the sites created depended in some ways on the effectiveness of the technology used, Julie Ng, '03, one of the alumni who dedicated their time to helping students complete their sites, emphasizes the importance of other factors, including "content" and "presentation" in the judging of the sites. In the rubric used as a guideline by judges, "Technology/Multimedia" counts for only 20 percent of the factors considered, while "Content" and "Research" together make up about 40 percent. A team's presentation accounts for another 20 percent



THE RUNNER-UP SITE ON ARTIST BEN SHAHN CREATED BY JACK PAYETTE, JESSE RACUSEN, AND ANDREW SLOTNICK, I

of the criteria they are graded on; the winning team, who concluded their presentation with a crowd-pleasing sing-along to Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land," was certainly deserving in this aspect. Ng also mentions another heavily considered



THE WINNING SITE ON MUSICIAN WOODY GUTHRIE CREATED BY REBECCA BILODEAU, KATIE HARRISON, AND JO WERBA, III

factor: the ability to approach the design of a site in a "non-linear" way, "offer[ing] the visitor multiple pathways and links to other information sources," as the judging rubric says. In effect, Ng explains, this ability is what distinguishes a website from a traditional paper report.

It seems that the Seevak Competition is succeeding in teaching students to effectively use the tools available to them in web design. Ng feels that this was "one of the best years so far" in terms of quality of both technology and content of the sites. Facing History teacher Ms. Judi Freeman, who oversees the competition, agrees that teams over the eight years of the Seevak Competition have grown to show "far more attention to content and to 'making a case' for" their subject. She adds that the use of technology as well as "decision[s] about how to structure the site[s]" have become "more deliberate." Since each year's teams "built[d] on the previous years' sites as precedents," the quality of sites will surely improve even more with time. Another

change possibly in store for the competition in the near future would allow students the option of creating a digital movie rather than a website, although this plan is not definite.

Liz Good (I), a member of the Sister Ann Fox team, says that participating in this year's competition helped her to practice "investigative style writing," and that she "would absolutely recommend" Seevak to others. Although Onuorah calls Seevak the "most exhausting experience I've ever had," she feels it is successful in honoring individuals and groups who "probably wouldn't be recognized otherwise." The difficulty and the amount of work involved in the competition made it all the more rewarding for Wong; making it to the end, he says, "was really a sign that I can push myself."

The 2005 Seevak Competition websites can be viewed at www.learnntoquestion.com/seevak.

Spotlight Andrew Larocque



CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS

By **MIKE MITCHELL, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the crowded halls of Boston Latin School, it is easy to recognize when Andrew "Drewbie" Larocque is around. He is often followed by passionate declarations of "I am number 10!" This exemplifies his dedication and enthusiasm to being part of a team. Drewbie is admired not only because of his athletic skills, but because of his love for the game. His quiet leadership, intense competitiveness and solid friendship have led many teams to victory and kept many friends by his side through the years.

I can remember back to the good old days of Holy Name School. Even there, it was evident that this kid was really something. He was always the first kid picked in dodgeball for gym class, and, many times, the cause of many black eyes and terrified girls huddling in a corner.

Drewbie carried his athletic ability into high school, and as a freshman, he was on two varsity squads. More than that, he was a vital asset to both teams, serving as the leading goal scorer for the soccer team and the starting shortstop for the baseball team. Through hard work and discipline, his athletic talent flourished among the experienced players against whom he competed.

In junior year, Drewbie decided it was time for a new challenge: football. The team was looking forward to his presence and considered it understandable if he needed time to adjust to the rigorous demands. How wrong we were. By the start of the first game, Drewbie was placed on every single squad: offense, defense and special teams. This kid didn't come off the field except for half time. This was his first year playing.

Senior year has come and gone and Drewbie's work ethic never once dwindled. He was named captain of the football team in only his second year playing and captain of the baseball team. His work ethic is evident among his peers. "He is dedicated in everything he does. He tries as hard as he can, whether it's during a game or during a practice," said Sarah Brown (I). It's not uncommon to see him taking extra grounders after practice or quizzing his teammates on plays.

Even during his few instances of downtime, he is still busy contributing to the school and his community. Drewbie works the scoreboard at each and every home basketball game, often staying as late as many of the players. On weekends, when most teenagers are sleeping away the afternoon, he is awake by 6 a.m. to work at the local church making preparations for mass. Through all these activities, his grades have never suffered. Drewbie is a member of the National Honor Society and will be attending Boston College next year to study business.

As a player, he is willing to sacrifice blood, sweat and tears. As a student, he never forgets that education will open doors to the rest of the world. As a friend, he offers compassion and an open ear whenever needed. These qualities make Drewbie someone who will surely go far in life.

Baseball Streaks into Playoffs

By **RON BOWER, II**
STAFF WRITER

With a playoff berth already wrapped up and the season not quite complete, the baseball team has shown that its intensity will keep it in any game. As it stands, the record is 10-8, but deserves to be 13-5. Three games were forfeited due to the ineligibility of certain players, some of the team's very best performers. "The schedule is set up so that you play a few teams you know you can beat," said Assistant Coach Jack Koen '89. "Of course, the teams that we forfeited our wins to were our easy games. So, to beat ten teams that are great competitors shows just how good this team really is."

Joining the Aluminum Bat Leagues has seemed to help the Wolfpack. Led by Dual County League All-Stars Rory Foley (II) and Pat Poulin (II), the team's average is an intimidating .330, supplementing its 95 RBIs. "Rory's just been hitting the [be-jeezus] out of the ball," said Mike Mitchell (I), who has not done too shabby himself with a .413 OBP and 16 RBIs, the second best on the team.

Coming in a close second to the Pack's much improved offense is its pitching. Captain Andrew "Drewby" Laroque (I) and Matt Stone (II) are the aces. Both throw a fastball, curve and change-up with individual specialties. Stone's fastball maxes out in the low 80s, but his change-up drops to about 65 mph, making it his most lethal pitch and helping him to accumulate 34 strikeouts. Drewby's curve is one of the best around. With it, he is able to lead the team, having allowed only 13

earned runs. Despite the great pitching, the squad is still having a tough time in the field. According to third baseman Mike Mitchell, "We have 37 errors, but our pitching and hitting don't make [them] look too bad."

The pitching and hitting are exactly what have kept the team in so many games. The aces have shown their ability to pitch whole games, amassing 67 of the 120 total innings pitched, while the bats have never quieted. Five times this season, the Pack has come back to win, and has also seen three games go into extra innings. When asked why he thought there were so many comebacks, Coach Koen explained that unlike other teams here at Latin School, this team has about ten players that have played with one another their whole lives. They know their teammates will step up. Such team chemistry has really done wonders. It is not until the fifth inning that the bats usually come alive and suddenly four more runs are on the board. In addition, Boston Latin gave Lincoln-Sudbury two of their four losses this season. The last time Boston Latin beat L-S was in 1993!

The printed record displays the team at 10-8, but things could be very different. Their best player, Sean Martin (I), could not play this season. Three games needed to be forfeited and two games were lost in the ninth inning. Thinking about it like that, the record could be a lot closer to 18-0. Although they will definitely face a tough opponent in the first round of the Aluminum Bat League tournament, with things the way they've been going, there is no reason for the Wolfpack to feel threatened.

Boys Tennis Set for Future

By **TIM PRATA, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Spring finally arrived, and the boys of the tennis team took to the courts for another season. The team endured grueling practices over at the Sportsmen Tennis Club in Mattapan everyday after school, typically lasting about three hours. Practices were called by Coach Bill Kates, who had his team undergo some practice drills to improve technique, followed by challenge matches. The challenge matches allowed Coach Kates to chart his team's progress. In the words of Coach Kates, "The challenge matches are a chance for the lesser experienced players to challenge the kids who get more matches and have more experience on the courts."

With Captain Jaison Kramer as the only senior on the team, the lineup was young, but also confident. The inexperience of the team was apparent at times, although it didn't have a disheartening effect. The team record of four wins and 16 losses does not reflect the attitude of the team. "We go out there, and try our best. If we happen to lose, then so be it. If we win, then we know we put our everything out there on the courts," said Coach Kates, who appeared to be in good spirits while talking about the younger players. The team has a good reason to be feeling confident in its skills. Its underclassmen have come up with some success-

ful matches in recent games, but were unfortunately unable to pull off the final victory. As the season was coming to a close, the boys' tennis team was dealt four disappointing losses against Lincoln Sudbury, Bedford, Wayland and Boston College High School, all of which were within reach of a victory.

With Captain Kramer the only senior leaving next year, the team has six underclassmen returning to the courts for the 2006 season. "We may not seem too strong this season, but wait until next year when we are putting up great numbers," says Giancarlo Graziani (III). The gains indeed outweigh the losses for next season, and the team is already hopeful for next year. "See, we have already improved from last year. Last year we won only one match; this year, we have four and the season hasn't even finished yet!" proclaimed James Roarty (II), when asked for his evaluation. Roarty, who is the sole upperclassman returning next season, appears ready to take on the leadership role in his senior year. "Next year's going to be much different. We are going to turn some heads, and I especially want to do well, because I want my tennis career to end on a good note."

Though the season has turned out to be a less than satisfactory performance overall, the potential for years to come is truly coming into play. There is a great expectation for the boys' tennis team, so don't be surprised if we hear more about it this time next year!

Spotlight Katherine Ramey



CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS

By **STEPHEN ARMANDT, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Someone once said, "The proper rewards are not simply tacked on to the activity for which they are given, but are the activity itself in consummation." The essence of athletics is not simply the color of the medal that a person may receive on a podium; it's being in training day after day to follow a dream. That is what makes sports special and that is why Kat Ramey deserves special recognition as an athlete at Boston Latin.

In ninth grade she joined the indoor track team. She stayed on the Junior Varsity team for the entire year practicing with the team daily. The next year she attained a Varsity position running the 55m, 55m hurdles and the 300m. As a junior, she returned to the team and barely missed the qualification time for the state meet. However, in that same year she was introduced to the sport of wrestling. She became one of the three managers of the wrestling team and developed a profound interest in the sport. As the winter sports came to a close she decided that she would try to make the team next year.

Although Kat was introduced to the weight limits and overall grit of the sport, she said that she believed wrestling to be a sport in which she could actually push herself to the limits of her potential. She began to train and to add another obstacle in her path, wrestling allows men to wrestle with women. She also would only have one year to train while some of her future opponents will have wrestled since middle school. Throughout the following summer and fall she built up the strength that would be an integral part of her success. As the season approached, Kat had many doubts as does every athlete, but she understood that the key was to never give in to them.

Along with Kat there were several other girls who decided to join the team. Her first wrestle-off (the winner of which would become Varsity) ended in defeat. Eventually she won a wrestle-off and attained the varsity position at 112 that she had been working for during the past months. The upcoming match was against the Holliston wrestling team. Within the first period she had pinned her opponent. Her contribution was critical to the 33-33 tie between Boston Latin and Holliston. For the rest of the season, she continued to follow her goal of being a member of the team and she is undefeated when wrestling female opponents.

The reason this story is worthy of a spotlight isn't because Kat has achieved some great accomplishment (well, because she hasn't in the eyes of many), it is simply a reminder to everyone that sports aren't about the top one percent of people who win states or an even more elite competition. Sports bring out the excellence in those who otherwise would never have known what their potential is.

SPORTS

Spotlight
Josh Speicher



CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS

By SEAN O'BRIEN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Josh Speicher is not your typical standout athlete. That's not to say that he is not accomplished. His path to athletic success started much later than most. While many were playing freshman football or baseball, Josh was playing the cello or the cymbals in the football band. However, in the 10th grade this all changed. Josh put down his instruments to try his luck at football. Although a bench warmer for most of the season, he excelled the following year. This persistence led him to become a starter halfway through his junior year. In his senior year, Josh started all 11 games, most times playing offense and defense.

Also in 10th grade Josh decided to join spring track. Again, like football, it took time before he made an impact. In just two years, Josh became the most valuable asset to the spring track team, earning the most points for his excellence in the field events of javelin and discus. He also earned DCL All-Star honors. This year was unprecedented. In May, Josh won the DCL Championship for javelin only to outdo himself a week and a half later when he came in first place in the Class A meet. Coach McCollum was so excited that he gave the award to Josh himself.

It's a mystery where all this athletic talent came from. The only conceivable place is from Josh's days as a Flying Dragon. The Flying Dragons were a gymnastics group that Josh took part in when he was in elementary school. This is a little-known fact, but one could have guessed when on the Thanksgiving Day rally he preceded to do a front flip then a back flip and stuck the landing.

Outside of school, Josh participates in a variety of other sports and activities. Since the age of four he has been an avid skier. In the winter on certain weekends, Josh even spends time as a ski instructor. Along with skiing, Josh also plays baseball. He started off in the North End Little League and now plays for the hated Brighton Tigers in Boston's RBI League. Even though Josh gave up instruments to pursue athletics, he did not put them down entirely. He can still be found strumming his bass guitar or playing piano at his humble home in Charlestown.

Now the question is, how did he ever manage to get studying done with all these activities? Well, unlike me, he knew how to manage time and/or actually study. Josh in fact was inducted into the National Honor Society. This fall he will seek higher learning at Dartmouth College, where he plans on playing football. Whatever the case may be, I am sure that Josh will be a success on and off the field and someday will probably be my boss.

Girls' Track Top-Notch

By JOE BRAVOCO, II
STAFF WRITER

Another season of girls' track is in the books, and for the most part, the success and performances of this year's squad can be measured up only in a commendable fashion. For four months, girls ranging from Class IV to I have pounded out the softened grass trails and the asphalt-laden tracks in the hopes of being among the top qualifiers in the Dual County League. Competitors such as Shawna Sinnott (II), Alia Qatarnah (II) and Michelle Finley (II), seasoned veterans, are a reason why the team is a potential contender for years to come, in addition to fresh talent from the lower classes on the rise. Their consistency, not to mention their unbreakable togetherness, has spelled out Boston Latin as top-notch competitor in the eyes of the formidable DCL.

It is important to point out that, although this team prides itself on its competitive focus and tireless practicing for upcoming meets, there is an indescribable layer of fun that keeps the players lively and at their best work. A typical workday for these girls consists of a light pre-workout, usually a short jog or a preliminary stretch. Then, as true competitors, they engage in a variance of conditioning

on stairs, running in packs around Clemente Field or pushing their muscles to the limit in their cooling-down abs exercises. Simply put, these girls seem to always be running or exercising in some manner, and their noteworthy record indicates such work ethic.

The members of the girls' field team also makes the journey to Clemente Field. Working everyday at lifting weights, throwing, jumping and running, these girls are just as dedicated as their running counterparts. Seniors such as Felicia Waldron helped guide the way through the season's many ups and downs and the team followed. In her words, "It was challenging but gratifying, as well as entertaining, for there is never a dull moment on the track team."

Most important to note is the dedication of this team towards winning track meets and maintaining a strong reputation in the DCL. Pushed by their coach, Denise Pritchard, these girls have never shown before such inspiration towards their daily workouts and weekly competitions. From this, it is safe to say that although the nucleus of this team may disintegrate due to the ever-present threat of graduation, nevertheless, the young portion of this track team will continue to develop their maturity and leadership in the approaching years.

Boys' Volleyball Strong

By AMY ZENG, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's spring and it's time to start rebuilding the boys' volleyball team. Last year, the Boston Latin boys claimed their first-ever Eastern Alliance Championship, but played only two games in the state playoffs before they were eliminated. Will this year's group be able to snatch another EA title or will it slip through their fingers?

The boys have a long way to go. With six seniors having graduated last year, the team lost its main attacker, setter and blocker, all crucial positions. Moreover, the current Varsity team consists of only 11 players, with half of the team being rookies. The majority of these fairly new players, however, have had prior experience from playing inside and outside of school. Many of the players, including veterans, took the initiative to train off-season, and have been strengthening their individual abilities for months.

From the looks of it, this is a five-star team; competent players have filled the vacant offensive slots left by the seniors last year. Gordon Hoang (II) and Arnold But (II) have stepped up as the team's setters; Matt Gittens (I), Cornelius Taazabuing (I) and Sean Rabe (III) have blocked off all middle openings; Philip Chan (II), Jim Luo (I) and James McElligott (II) play as the outside attackers. For defense, Captain Eric Chan (I) leads as the weak side hitter. Finally, Alan Mui (III) and Huan Ngo (I) complete the back row.

From an outsider's view, the guys are fast and always on their toes. Their movements are so swift and light that it is almost graceful. The team works well with each other. The only "down" is the few small collisions when aggressive players bump into each other during reception. Captain Chan believes all will be fine by game time, saying "The veterans



are doing well, and the new people learn quickly. We're going to be good this year. I know it."

The team practices daily from 3:30 p.m. to around 6 p.m. Their agenda includes a number of lengthy exercises that promote and test the boys' speed, endurance and utilization of their skills. The ultimate test, however, is teamwork, which is why the last hour of every practice is devoted to scrimmaging as the team is divided and pitted against each other like in a game.

The off-season training and long after school practices are admirable aspects of the group, but is it enough? Coach Huy Pham has two objectives: to defend the championship and to further the team in this year's state playoffs. When the question of a definite division title was posed, Coach Pham replied, "We have

the potential, it's going to be a lot of hard work. But we'll do what we have to do." It's nice to hear some reassurance, but how is the team's playing status?

According to Coach Cuong Tran, the boys are good to go. "We have good middles [blockers].

With good passing from the back, we'll do well." At the moment, the front row players are working to improve on their speed and hitting, which will make for a stronger offense, while the back row works to maintain solid receiving and passing.

The biggest threats to the boys' volleyball team this year are rivals Lincoln-Sudbury and Newton South. The circumstances do not favor the Wolfpack: these two teams did not lose as many vital players as Latin did, so the opponents already have a season's experience under their belts.

Will '2005' be added to the boys' Eastern Alliance Championship banner in the gym or will the lone '2004' remain until next year? We will have to see if the boys can live up to the expectations.

Spotlight
Jamie Fu



CHESTNUT HILL STUDIOS

By ALIA QATARNEH, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Size doesn't matter when it comes to Boston Latin School's Jamie Fu. Although she might be mistaken for a fivesie in the hallway, Jamie Fu towers over all when it comes to academics and athletics. Even though she has been juggling three AP classes (AP Biology, AP Economics and AP Statistics), Jamie has achieved the unimaginable. She participates in many State meets on account of her talent as a sprinter on the Boston Latin School track team.

To put it simply, Jamie's sport is track. Running is her thing, and she does it very well. As a short sprinter, she runs in the 55m, 100m and the 200m during both the indoor and outdoor seasons. This talent was first discovered in elementary school. Yes, Jamie Fu, even smaller back then, ran in fourth and fifth grade, winning a gold medal in the Boston Public Schools Olympics. She quickly realized that track was her destiny.

Jamie has been a member of the track team for three consecutive years. Starting in the 10th grade, she began participating in both indoor and outdoor seasons. In the 11th grade, she was the first leg in the 4x200m relay for the indoor season and the 4x100m relay for the outdoor one, qualifying both times for States. As a senior, she came in eighth place at the Dual County League tournament in the 55m dash, gaining points for her team. Also, for indoor, she was a part of the 4x200m relay that qualified as well. Just recently, her 4x100m in the 2005 outdoor season competed in States. Indeed, she has had a great track career as a sprinter for Latin. Besides running, Jamie used to be an active jumper, participating in the Triple Jump field event. This season, however, she decided to abandon her jumping career in order to focus on her sprinting.

There is little down time for Fu between the months of November and May, as one can find Jamie in the locker room, in the hall stretching or out at the Fens preparing for an upcoming meet. Jamie is very dedicated to this sport and to the school. As one of the oldest members of the team, many look up to her—not literally, of course. She is said to be the "mother figure" of the team, helping many of her fellow athletes on and off the track. On a side note, she is the most gullible person on the team, providing many laughs and hysterical moments that will be remembered by all who know her as "Mommy Fu." What are they going to do without her next year? I do not know.

With her great performances in the classroom and on the field, she has chosen to attend Bentley College. With her love for running still ablaze in her heart, she plans on trying out for their track team, hoping to continue her career as a sprinter. Jamie is a perfect example of the famous expression "size doesn't matter." She has achieved great things at the Latin School, and will continue to wow us. Good job, Fu.

Spotlight Andrew Gordon



SIMON FISCHER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Andrew Gordon, known by his friends as Trevor Manila, first graced the Boston Latin community back in ninth grade. He came with a purpose: to change the lives of all in as many ways as possible. We can all say that Gordon failed miserably in this endeavor. Through his failure, Gordon realized his true calling, the art of Physical Activity.

Andrew first recognized his potential to excel in athletic contests during his days at the Rashi School. It is a Jewish elementary school which practically breeds athletes on par with Gordon's ability. He was a dominant force during gym periods and especially on Lag Ba' Omar, an annual field day run by the Rashi School. After Andrew conquered the ISEE test and prepared to enter Latin School, he knew this large high school would be the ideal stage for himself to athletically preform.

You might not recognize him from any major sports at school, but if you had a trained eye, you could plainly see his athletic prowess. "The sports teams simply aren't good enough for me," the cocky Gordon commented once. This seems to be the case as Gordon is a member of the GBBCL, and is a wiz at backyard wiffle ball. If you are lucky enough, Gordon might invite you to a friendly game of basketball, only to beat you by 20 points.

Gordon is most proud of his excellence in the Ultimate Fighting Field. Practicing countless hours a day, he engages in bouts where he is outweighed by his opponents by at least 30 pounds. "He is the strongest man alive, and is a grand master in the art of submission and grappling," said Andrew Flink (I), an unworthy opponent. Gordon uses his knowledge in ultimate fighting for countless other sports including ping-pong, flip cup and bobsledding (yes, he owns his own bobsled).

When Andrew Gordon once tried to trace his roots back to find where his athletic ability came from, he discovered that he is in the lineage of the Greek gods, hence his beautiful curly locks. Knowing his birth right, he now calls himself Manimal, half man, half animal. It's understandable why he calls himself this, as you see him frolicking around the cricket pitch.

As Gordon leaves BLS and makes his way onto bigger and better things, he plans on entering the second season of "The Ultimate Fighter" on Spike TV, as well as being the lone screwball pitcher on the Lowell Spinners. He has also recently discussed with his family and close friends the possibility of entering the 2006 NFL draft. Whatever sport Gordon decides to choose as his "true" calling, he will certainly take it by storm and destroy all that lie in his path to glory. We will all look forward to seeing what the world has in store for this young man with extraordinary potential.

Crew Rows to Top

By NICK MILANO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A sport which has been without due recognition by the Boston Latin School community deserves a standing ovation. On Sunday, May 22, the BLS crew team traveled to Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester to take part in the Massachusetts Public Schools State Championship Rowing Regatta. The Varsity first and second boats both came in first overall, and the JV boat came in second overall. This win only adds to the success that is still new to the team. A week before this regatta, on May 15, the team won the Lowell Invitational held on the Merrimack River. As a result, the team carried their winning streak into the World Series, the Super Bowl of New England High School level rowing: the New England Interscholastic Regatta held Saturday, May 28 on Lake Quinsigamond.

One might say that the crew team's winning ways are almost miraculous because their success this year is unprecedented. The claim that their success, however, is a miracle does not do the girls justice. The crew team is composed of a group of determined girls who have grown by leaps and bounds over the last few years. Under Coach Gillian Curran who is in her fourth year, the girl's crew team has undergone a complete transformation by going from one of the least competitive teams to two of the top 11 teams in all New England. The entire team has consistently worked hard every year, resolved to reach the top. Their dedication is not just shown by their practice every day after school and every day during April vacation, but also by their efforts to buy completely new equipment. Because the boats that the girls had been racing on outdated their opponents', last year the team put together a huge fundraiser in order to buy brand new



boats. They did so with immense success, raising \$20,000 which enabled them to buy new boats.

The Varsity crew team is split up into three groups: Varsity 1 and Varsity 2 along with two JV teams, and a novice team made up of girls who are rowing for the first time. The captains are two of the six graduating seniors: Lindy McGrail and Alex Rogers. The other seniors are Maria Farias, Winette Yee, Melissa Gilmore and Meredith Pierce. As is obvious, the team has a very large number of juniors and sophomores represented by team members such as coxswains Marlene O'Hara (II) and Danielle Valle-Fitzgerald (II) and rowers Elizabeth Hanson (II), Alex Lane (III), Jen Dolan (III), and Meghan Lampron (III).

This year, the team is ranked tenth and eleventh by the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association (NEIRA). The Varsity 1 boat with a record (when Argo went into production) of thirteen wins and one loss is tenth

and the Varsity 2 boat is ranked number eleven. The method of recording wins and losses is confusing, yet simple. At each meet or regatta, the girls row in heats against three or four other boats. Each boat that they beat in a race counts as one win. Therefore, the varsity 1 boat has beaten thirteen others while only losing to a single opponent.

As aforementioned, on May 28, the girls rowed in a race that meant more than any other race this year. They raced against both private and public school teams from all New England and won! And since they won this upcoming regatta, we can claim that Boston Latin School is the home of the best high school crew team in all of New England. However, winning is not all that matters, more important is the work that the girls have put into building what is the dawn of a new era for Boston Latin School Crew.

Sailing Improves

PAUL POKASKI, II
STAFF WRITER

Of the many school sports at Boston Latin School, the sailing team is probably the most unknown. If one were to ask the average student about the team, he or she probably would not have much to say about it. Some may even be shocked to learn that a sailing team exists at Boston Latin. Others may be able to name a friend on the team, but cannot venture a guess at their record. Despite its relative anonymity, the sailing team has attracted a unique group of students that enjoy what they do.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday the team heads over to Courageous Sailing Center in Charlestown to practice. The team is led by Coach Emily Drowne and by captains Keith Webber (II) and Liz Moniz (I). The squad is composed of about 20 students, consisting of both boys and girls. This year, the team finished with a disappointing two wins to go along with their six losses. Nevertheless, the team is still optimistic, being quick to point out that they had doubled their win total from last year, when they were only 1-7.

Despite their losing record, the team is showing promise for the next few years to come. Even with the departure of Coach Drowne at the end of the season, the common opinion among team members is that next year will be better. Part of the reason

for this belief is the sailing of the Byrne brothers. Jesse Byrne (VI) and his older brother Ryan (V) were very impressive this season and their teammates are amazed by their potential. Also turning heads this season are Joe Bravoco (II) and Theresa O'Connell (II). All things considered, it would appear that the team has the ability to be considerable better next year.

The team's main goal, however, was not its record. It still knows the most important part about playing a school sport is to have fun. And while it may not be the winningest team here at Latin, the players do seem to have the most fun. Bravoco characterizes the feeling around the team as one of "levity." One time, before a race, rain was coming down hard and the temperature was cold. Nevertheless, the team seemed unfazed by the weather, telling jokes and getting ready. Webber probably sums up the sailing experience the best saying, "Sailing is an exhilarating sport that takes hard practice but offers great rewards."

Even though the team may be low-key, it is definitely motivated. If it falls short next year, it will not be due to lack of trying. In fact, its anonymity may even be advantageous. It needs not worry about its record, since nearly nobody knows it. The team may just be better off operating under the radar. If the team can continue its upward trend, though, it may garner some attention. Soon, the team may be too good to be ignored any longer.

Spotlight Lindy McGrail



By MELISSA GILMORE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Lindy McGrail is by far one of the most hardworking and enthusiastic people I know. She puts her heart into everything she does and refuses to submit to anything lower than success.

Lindy danced ballet ever since she was a young girl, performing in many famous ballets such as The Nutcracker. However when she reached high school, she decided she was going to try something new, the BLS girls' crew team. As captain of the girls' crew team for the past two years, Lindy has shown great leadership and devotion. She encourages and gives confidence to her teammates during every drill, every day, and at every race. The three hour practices and all day regattas seem more bearable with her around, as she is always optimistic. She trains intensely for what she does and makes sure it will not go unnoticed, which it hasn't.

Recently, her team participated in the Massachusetts Public High School Regatta, in which her boat came in first place. In past years BLS girls' crew has never won first place, and this was not easy to do. All the hard work and time she put into practice finally paid off. Also during that same Regatta, the second varsity boat also came in first place for their race, and the third boat came in third. It was a very successful day that will never be forgotten. Very recently, the crew team participated in NEIRA's, or "New England Interscholastic Rowing Association", which is a very competitive race. Not only did Lindy's boat make it to the grand finals, they finished sixth throughout the New England states. This also has never been done by the girls' crew team, and Lindy's leadership was a big asset to this success. She is a true role model to many of the girls on the team and has set high standards for future rowers, and she will truly be missed next year. Her teammate and friend Meredith Pierce (I) said, "What I admire most about Lindy is her attitude. I see how focused she is when she rows and I can't tell you how many times I have thought about Lindy right before the start of the race; it is her drive and level of beast that really motivates me to row my race as hard as I can."

Next year, Lindy will attend Fairfield University in which she will be a member of their crew team. There is no doubt she will add immensely to their team not only with her athletic abilities but also with her passionate personality. She puts as much time and effort into her school work as she does with crew and Fairfield is lucky to have her. Lindy will be successful no matter what the situation is because of the dedication and enthusiasm she puts into everything she does.

SPORTS

Congratulations BLS Champions 2005



MEMBERS OF THE 2005 NEIR CHAMPION BLS CREW TEAM, 2005 DIVISION II BOYS HOCKEY CHAMPIONS, AND DCL THROWING CHAMPION JOSH SPEICHER.

Sport or Not a Sport: Poker

Recently, poker has illuminated society like wild fire. Television hasn't missed the opportunity to gain viewers by broadcasting poker. It can be seen all over in places such as sports channels like ESPN, NESN and the New York based YES network, to such oddities as the Travel Channel and Bravo. Television networks such as NBC have even tapped into the new rage. Different twists have been put on the games to attract viewers like NESN broadcasting Boston vs. New York poker and ESPN showing the Poker World Series. In the end, the real effects of the reviving poker can be seen on a local level as children and adults of all ages play the card game which has many variations such as 5 Card Draw, Texas Hold'em, 7 Card Stud, among others. However, as sports television channels such as ESPN—claiming to be “The World Wide Leader in Sports”—tap into the poker madness, the question arises, “Is poker a sport?”

—Thomas Ahmadifar, II

Class I

“Yes, it is a sport because it is intense and it requires mental prowess and stamina.”

—Bobby Zheng, I

“No, because you just sit there and deal out cards. There is no intense movement, no physical exertion”

—Ying Ying Fok, I

“No, it is a game, not a sport; there is nothing physical about it.”

—Leah Skaben, I

Class II

“Yes, because it is competitive and takes skill.”

—Paul Pokaski, II

“Yes, because it is on ESPN.”

—Adam Fleischer, II

“No, it is a game that requires skill, but it doesn't involve any team interactions and is more of a personal hobby than an individual sport.”

—Olivia Paquette, II

“A sport?”

—Louis Venturelli, II

“Poker is clearly a sport because it can be bet on and, although it involves no physical work, it can be stressful and cause the brain to malfunction.”

—Adrian Kozikowski, II

“No, because when I think sports, I think physical exercise. To me, sports are supposed to push you, mentally and physically ... so how could a card game do that?”

—Alia Qatarnah, II

“Definitely, if twirling a ribbon around a stick is in the Olympics then being able to lose hundreds of thousands

of dollars in a single hand of cards should definitely be a sport.”

—Tyler Drinkwater, II

“I don't think its a sport because it doesn't involve physical interaction, although it does involve skill.”

—David Boire, II

“No, it is a card game.”

—Shannon Devlin, II

“It is not a sport because it involves no physical ability.”

—Zachary Cronin, II

“No, because it is a card game.”

—Sam Layne, II

“Yes, it involves the mind, and one of the definitions of a sport is fun, and poker is fun.”

—Phuc Tran, II

“It is a sport because you can bet on it.”

—Jackie Sullivan, II

Class III

“No, because it is like a board game and it only involves thought, although it can be played like a sport because people are enthusiastic.”

—Alphonse DePalma, III

“Only if it is televised.”

—Mad Mike Kolton, III

“No, not really, it's just cards.”

—Kyle Miles, III

“No, because you don't need that much talent to play.”

—Marina Bartolomei, III

Class IV

“No, because sports involve running and in poker you sit.”

—Jacob Sherman, IV

“Yes, because it's competitive.”

—Erica Penaloza, IV

“I don't think so because it doesn't challenge your physical abilities.”

—Jenny Umana, IV

“No, it is not because it doesn't involve physical contact.”

—Dylan Considine, IV

Class V

“No, because there is no contact or anything. It's just a way to make money.”

—James Doogan, V

“No, because there is no athletic ability involved.”

—Brian Glora, V

“I don't think poker is a sport because it's gambling.”

—Iris Zhou, V

Softball Hangs Tough down the Stretch

By KATIE BALACONIS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Looking on the 2005 season so far, it has been a roller coaster ride for the girls' softball team. As the girls enter their last week of play, they face Fontbonne Academy and Latin Academy, with overall records of 6-12, an improvement from last year according to Captain Caroline Sullivan (I). “We are definitely a better team than last year. We are older and more experienced. We have won more games so far, and most of the games that we lost were close. Even from the beginning of the year, we lost the first game to Newton South 2-1 in 10 innings, but we beat them later in the season 2-1,” she says. That all these close games could have gone either way makes this season even more heartbreaking for a team that had hopes of making it to the state tournament.

This year started off similar to the last, with the team doing little to no hitting. By midseason, however, the bats started to crack thanks to a pitching machine brought in for practices. Half of the team now has batting averages around or above .250, which was the highest average at the end of last year. Leading the hitting are freshmen Kathleen Roche (.364) and Christine Kelly (.303).

By producing some offensive power, the Wolfpack was able to contend both in and out of the Dual County League under the leadership of Coach Holland. Their first major victory came against Archbishop Williams early in the season, in which Captain Sullivan played an integral role when she belted a two-run homer. In its next game against highly ranked Newton South, Latin produced the first run against the Lions up to that point in the season, forcing the opposition into

extra innings only to end in defeat. It then battled Lincoln-Sudbury until a defeat in the 13th inning before fighting another close game against Acton-Boxboro. Latin was becoming a threat that could not be taken lightly.

As the season was winding down, the team had to be flawless in order to make the state tournament. Katie Dimeo (V), in her second season, achieved 100 strikeouts with both Lorraine McElligot (III) and Kaighla Ridge (V) guarding the plate. The quartet of Sullivan (I), Liz Balacanis (II), Roche (IV) and Laura LeBlanc (II) created an impregnable infield that kept hits to a minimum. The fleet-footed outfield—Maura Donnelly (II), Taylor Speranza (II) and Christine Kelly (IV)—with extra help from Nicole Poulos (III), Patricia Foley (III), Amy Kotowski (II), Shannon Devlin (II) and Katie Carney (I), made huge plays at critical times. Even if they just so

happened to make a mistake, they were able to rectify it before any extra bases were taken.

With this combination of defense, the team was able to come up with big wins over Weston, Wayland, Latin Academy and a huge upset over Newton South. For Sullivan, this was a great memory for her senior year: “My favorite game was the second Newton South game. In all the games against them in the past two years, the difference in the score was one run. We lost the first three games, all in extra innings... and finally in our last game against them this year, we beat them!”

This year the team will be saying good-bye to two incredible seniors, Katie Carney and Caroline Sullivan, both of whom have contributed to the team's progress and have set the tone for next year's squad. They will be greatly missed, but great things are in store for next season.

SPORTS

Revolution Strongest in Town

BY THOMAS AHMADIFAR, II
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In Boston sports, certain patterns have developed. The Red Sox streak in the late spring and burn down the stretch. The Patriots lose to the Dolphins in December, but seem to come out ahead in the end. The Celtics of old win championships, and the Celtics of new lose in the first round of the playoffs to the Pacers. The Bruins management withholding blockbuster trades and big-time talent keeps the team from advancing beyond the first round as well. Amongst all of the "next year's" and Danny Ainge degrading, another constant has developed, but has slipped under the radar of Boston sports fans: the New England Revolution.

It wasn't too long ago in the Revolution's 10-year history that they were the butt of jokes. They were run over by powerhouse teams such as the Los Angeles Galaxy, DC United and the Kansas City Wizards; the team had only one true star at the time, Alexi Lalas. Just as the Patriots received a shot of adrenaline, though, with the thought of a new home at Gillette Stadium, the Revolution welcomed it as well with open arms. The Revolution played their first game ever at Gillette against the Dallas Burn in 2002 and won 2-0. The same year, the Revolution rode their late season burst through to the Major League Soccer Cup championship

game, held at Gillette Stadium. Unfortunately, they lost in second overtime 1-0 to the LA Galaxy.

Recently, the Revolution have made the playoffs for the past three years consecutively. After reaching the Cup in 2002, the 2003 Revolution reached the Eastern Conference Championship and lost to the Chicago Fire. The 2004 Revolution proved they were consistent, making the playoffs and reaching the Eastern Conference Championship. They lost, however, in a second round of overtime penalty kicks to DC United.

The 2005 Revolution are looking to surpass the accomplishments of the past three years, as well as to break the Revolution's own seasonal patterns. Both in 2002 and 2003, the Revolution approached the midseason as if they weren't going to make the playoffs. In both years, though,

when their backs were against the wall, the team pulled together and crafted winning streaks that carried them into the playoffs with high momentum. This year, the Revolution are off to the fourth best start in Major

League Soccer history. With an undefeated record and only two ties, New England is sitting atop the Eastern Conference rankings and not looking back.

Unlike previous years, the Revolution are blessed with depth off the bench as well as healthy stars. Names such as Taylor Twellman, Steve Ralston and Pat Noonan are counted as some of the best in the league. They have been providing consistent offense for

the Rev's this year, and are finally being helped by others. Clint Dempsey has emerged as a late threat with his four game winning goals. Midfielder Shalrie Joseph has been doing his fair share of



TAYLOR TWELLMAN HAS THE REVOLUTION IN 1ST PLACE IN THE MLS...AND BOSTON

assisting the goal scorers, and he isn't the only one as the team has been providing its goal scorers with timely and accurate passes.

Despite big names on offense, however, the Revolution's strength this year has been their defense and goaltending. The Rev's shut out opponents in their last three home games and, until their 2-2 tie against the Metrostars on May 21, had only allowed one goal since the first half of the season opener. Goaltender Matt Reis is due much of the credit after the tough loss of a strong goaltender in Adin Brown. Through eight games, Reis accumulated five shut outs and only allowed seven goals.

The league has expanded recently and is starting to develop a national fan base with marketable stars such as teenage sensation Freddie Adu and hometown favorite Taylor Twellman. For their own part, the Revolution are beginning to become an annual fixture in the Eastern Conference. The Revolution's past three playoff appearances were more successful than any of the Celtics playoff runs since 2001-2002, which was the Green's first playoff appearance since 1994-1995. The last time the Bruins made it to the Eastern Conference Championship series was 1991-1992. The Revolution have made the playoffs more times than the Red Sox and Patriots in the past three years. Why are they still left behind in the Boston sports world?

NBA Playoffs Contain Titans and Little Sun

BY ADAM FLEISCHER, II
STAFF WRITER

Shaq's playing, although a little bruised and battered, has him looking to help the Miami Heat win its first NBA title in franchise history. The Heat's Eastern Conference Finals foe, the Detroit Pistons, seek to defend their title by once again defying the odds placed on them as underdogs. On the other side of the country in the Western Conference Finals, the Phoenix Suns and San Antonio Spurs went to head in a match-up of the league's two winningest teams during the regular season. The Suns were looking to show all of their naysayers that a team with an extremely potent offense but lacking defensive prowess can be the last standing at the end of the playoffs in June. The Spurs, conversely, are out to claim their third title in the Tim Duncan-era by proving that team basketball still reigns supreme. Unfortunately for the Suns, their naysayers proved to be right. Each of the remaining teams, with their unique superstars and trademark styles of play, have the ability to come away with the crown.

Ever since July 14, the fateful day on which the Heat acquired Shaquille O'Neal

from the Los Angeles Lakers, the Diesel has been trying to help shift the balance of power in favor of Miami, something which nearly all fans and analysts proclaimed would occur the minute the transaction was announced. Such sentiment came with good reason. Shaq is, without a doubt, the most dominant force that the game has seen since any of us have been around, and maybe the most dominant ever. O'Neal's partner in crime, All-NBA Second Teamer Dwayne Wade, is able to provide a complimentary scoring threat to the Big Fella inside, helping the Heat toward the number one seed in the Eastern Conference.

No one in the league, or the world for that matter, can stop Shaq entirely. At best, teams can hope to minimize his impact, not just in the scoring column, but also in his rebounding and ability to pass out of the double team. Nevertheless, if I could think of one man to do the job, it would be three-time defensive Player of the Year Ben Wallace, who happens to be the Detroit Pistons star center. The beauty of the Pistons and Coach Larry Brown's defensive scheme is that Wallace does not have to face Shaq alone. Instead, he is surrounded by excellent defenders able to provide him with constant help, such as Tayshaun Prince

and Rasheed Wallace. In last year's finals, when Shaq was still with the Lakers, Detroit showed that they were able to contain his presence and topple a "superior" team. This year will prove to have the same result.

The series in the Western Conference proved to provide five tense games. An up-and-down, non-stop running tempo seemed to favor the electrifyingly high-scoring Suns, led by MVP Steve Nash as well as the monstrous Amare Stoudemire in the post. The Spurs showed, however, throughout the series that they were able to match the Suns' pace while still playing their type of basketball en route to a swift overtaking of Phoenix by taking four out of five games. Duncan and his teammates, who have consistently performed with excellence all season, were able to continue with their regular season dominance, thus able to suppress the Suns' offensive attack.

This leads us to a prospective matchup between the Spurs and Pistons for the NBA Championship. Just like the Patriots, the NFL champions three of the last four years, each of these or-

ganizations exemplify team play, even as they contain some superstars. The Patriots serve as models of how to win titles: we all know that it's defense, defense, defense. Although the Spurs are a good defensive team, and are solid in all facets of the game, the Pistons' team defense is simply too stifling. Duncan and crew will undoubtedly put up a great fight and will likely be able to match Detroit punch-for-punch throughout most of the series (no pun intended—we miss you Ron Artest). In the end, though, the defending champs from Motown will verify that they were not one hit wonders. My prediction: Detroit in seven.



SHAQ AND DWAYNE WADE DISCUSS STRATEGY TO MAKE IT TO THE FINALS

Red Sox Have Parts in Place for a Repeat

BY NICK MILANO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2004 World Champion Boston Red Sox broke the Curse of the Bambino, and the 2005 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox will forever erase that curse from the minds of every Red Sox fan.

Yes, I am willing to go on record saying that the Sox will again be champions when the postseason climaxes with the 2005 World Series.

To date, the Sox are in the running behind a Baltimore Orioles team that stacked with offense, but that does not have the key to success in the last months of the season: pitching. Their pitching staff consists mostly of a group of obscure young pitchers who have yet to prove themselves or pitch on a national stage. The two starters who are known outside of Baltimore, Rodrigo Lopez

and Sidney Ponson, are having poor seasons with ERAs of 4.88 and 5.83 respectively. The only reason that the Orioles have a multi-game lead over the Sox is that their offense has been giving their starters 6, 7, 8 runs a night. Eventually, their lack of adequate pitching will catch up to them, to the subsequent advantage of the Red Sox.

The Red Sox have one of the best pitching staves in the entire league, with not only solid, talented pitchers, but also a group which has pitched with success in the playoffs and the World Series. With a proven ace in a healthy Curt Schilling, a veritable Yankee-killer in Bronson Arroyo and a proven clutch closer in Keith Foulke, the Sox are set for the year. This does not even begin to account for other advantages, such as Wade Miller, an ex-Cy Young caliber pitcher whose last outing showed just how good he is: he allowed only 1 run and 3 hits in 6.1 innings. In 2002,

his best year, he recorded 15 wins with a 3.28 ERA, and 144 strikeouts for an Astros team that did not even make the playoffs.

Moreover, the Sox lineup is better than it was last year. Despite problems early in the season, Manny Ramirez is Manny Ramirez, will be Manny Ramirez, and will put up Manny Ramirez numbers, which happen to be potential Triple Crown-winning numbers every year. Meanwhile, Edgar Renteria has been off to a rather slow start as he gets used to playing in pressure-packed Fenway Park. He is only batting .239, but really is a career .288 hitter stuck in a season-long slump similar to Manny's. With leadoff hitter Johnny Damon hitting as torridly as he has been, Jason Varitek crushing the ball, and Trot Nixon having his best start in years, the Sox are destined to keep the World Series trophy in Boston.

As usual, the only team that the Red

Sox have to watch out for is them Yankees who will not quietly lose the division again. There are rumors swirling that Roger Clemens, who was "done" when he left the Sox after the 1996 season, might bring his 1.29 ERA and 63 strikeouts in 63 innings to the Evil Empire. If this happens, it will undoubtedly tip the balances in favor of the Yankees. As shown last year, however, when it comes to head to head, the Sox have the ability and determination to never give up and come out on top.

In the end, it does not matter what the Sox record is a quarter of the way through the year. What matters is that they make it into the playoffs so their stellar starting pitchers and bullpen can carry them into the World Series. By September, the Baltimore Orioles will not even be an afterthought; it does not matter how many days you spend in first place during the regular season, but where you stand at the end.

